



Nurturing Children Through Worship and Prayer Initiative

2024

Frequently Asked Questions

Is submission of the Interest Form required?

No. Submission of the Interest Form from your organization is not required. Lilly Endowment, however, strongly encourages organizations to submit the Interest Form and upload a one-page Letter of Interest. These items will help the Endowment know about your interest and prepare to receive your proposal. If your organization is unable or decides not to submit the Interest Form and Letter of Interest by the deadline for these items, you may still submit a proposal by the proposal submission deadline.

Should we wait for a response from the Endowment about our Interest Form before working on the proposal?

No. The Interest Form is intended to indicate your organization's intent to submit a proposal, not for a preliminary evaluation by the Endowment of the merit of potential proposals. Please go ahead and begin working on your proposal.

May we speak with someone to discuss ideas, receive feedback on a proposal or obtain further clarification about this initiative?

Unfortunately, no. This is a national competitive initiative, and the Endowment anticipates receiving a high volume of proposals. Because this is a competitive initiative, Endowment staff is unable to provide feedback on ideas or proposals. Please read carefully the Request for Proposals and accompanying documents for guidance as you design your program and prepare your proposal.

What does the Endowment mean by evaluation, and what are the Endowment's expectations?

Evaluation entails the activities built into the organization's program to gauge its progress toward the program's intended outcomes. The Endowment considers carefully the organization's evaluation plan in reviewing its proposal. Most evaluation plans include quantitative and qualitative measures to gauge the effectiveness of particular activities as well as the overall impact of the organization's program. Through careful evaluation, organizations learn from their work so that they can refine their programs to make them more effective.

What types of outcomes and performance indicators are appropriate for inclusion in an organization's proposal?

A critical aspect of any proposal is a description of an organization's anticipated outcomes and particular performance indicators for its proposed program. Outcomes and performance indicators may be qualitative or quantitative. Outcomes should indicate clearly what the organization plans to achieve and what changes will occur as a result of the program funded by the grant. Performance indicators are specific quantitative or qualitative markers that the organization will track at defined intervals to gauge its progress toward a program's outcomes.

What are the Endowment's expectations regarding sustainability?

The Endowment seeks to help organizations design, launch and refine programs that advance the initiative's aim and objectives and that they will be able to continue through other funding sources beyond the end of its grant period. Therefore, the Endowment encourages organizations to design programs and apply for grants at amounts appropriate to their capacities to implement high-quality programs and sustain them into the future. Organizations should have no expectation that Endowment funding will be available for their programs beyond the grant period. Thus, proposals should include a discussion and plan about how organizations intend to garner other funding sources, as well as take other actions, to sustain their programs beyond Endowment funding.

May an organization submit multiple proposals?

No. Each organization may submit only one proposal that presents the organization's best idea.

May multiple organizations work together to submit a proposal?

Yes. Organizations may work collaboratively to design a program and prepare a proposal. While the Endowment encourages collaborative endeavors, only one lead organization may submit a proposal requesting a grant for a collaborative program. If the proposed program involves other collaborating organizations, letters of support from the leaders of the other organizations must be submitted with the application.

May an organization submit a proposal for a program that would work with congregations in different denominations and/or in a variety of Christian traditions?

Yes. An organization may submit a proposal for a program that would work with congregations from different denominations and theological traditions, if such a program is appropriate for the organization's mission.

May an organization submit a proposal for a program that would work with congregations outside of the United States?

Only organizations that are public charities under United States tax laws and that are located in the United States are eligible to apply for grants under this initiative. The proposed programs should be for activities that support congregations in the United States (which includes U.S. territories).

May individual congregations apply?

Yes. However, the initiative is not intended to provide grants to individual congregations for the sole purpose of funding its own ministries. Rather, it is intended to support organizations that work with multiple congregations and the individuals and families served by multiple congregations. If the purpose of the program is to work with multiple congregations, individual congregations may apply.

May an organization with a current grant from the Endowment submit a proposal for this initiative?

Yes. An organization with a current grant from the Endowment may submit a proposal. However, organizations that have already received a grant in the Nurturing Children Through Worship and Prayer Initiative are not eligible to apply.

May an organization that is partnering with an organization that has a grant in this initiative apply for a grant for its own program?

Yes. An organization that participates in a collaborative proposal but is not the lead applicant on that proposal may submit a separate proposal for its own program. All applicants must have proper Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3) and public charity status.

May an organization provide funding from its grant (either through a sub-grant or contract) to another organization for the purpose of this initiative?

Yes. An organization may enter a contractual relationship or provide subgrants to collaborating organizations that will implement particular program activities. The amount of funds the organization will distribute to collaborating organizations should be indicated in the budget submitted with the proposal.

May an organization use grant funds to advocate for legislation that supports the mission of a church and/or the improvement of life for citizens (e.g., affordable housing, alleviation of poverty, education of children)?

No. Grant funds received from Lilly Endowment cannot be used for lobbying or political activities per federal tax regulations. Please consult your organization's legal counsel for clarification.

When should we propose to start the grant period?

The Endowment anticipates notifying organizations of funding decisions by the end of the year. Based on past experiences with other initiatives, most organizations may submit proposals for programs that will begin in the year following receipt of grant funds. Each organization should discern the best time for it to start its proposed program.

Does the Endowment anticipate offering this opportunity again next year?

No. The Endowment has no plans to offer this opportunity next year.

Is there a page limit for appendices?

No. But the Endowment strongly encourages organizations to include in the proposal narrative (12-page limit) key information about the proposed program and the capacity of the organization to carry it out. The Endowment also encourages organizations to be judicious in appending additional materials to their proposals.

Will the Endowment provide guidance about how to prepare the grant budget?

Please see the Guide to Budget Preparation, which is provided on the Nurturing Children Through Worship and Prayer Initiative webpage on the Endowment's website. The guide includes helpful information to assist organizations in preparing their budgets. Please consult with your organization's financial officers for guidance when preparing your budget.

Are indirect costs allowable for inclusion in proposal?

Yes. The Endowment allows organizations to request funds for indirect costs in their proposals. Indirect costs should not exceed 10 percent of the grant funds requested from the Endowment in the proposed budget. For example, if an organization requests a \$1.25 million grant, the maximum allowable indirect costs would be \$113,636 (approximately 10% of \$1,136,364 in direct costs). Please see the Guide to Budget Preparation, which is provided on the initiative webpage for more guidance on indirect costs.

Where can we get information about formatting proposal documents as a PDF?

The Endowment asks organizations to upload their proposals through the Application Form on the Nurturing Children Through Worship and Prayer webpage as a single PDF file. Please consult your IT support for advice, if needed.

Where can we learn about related grant opportunities?

Please see the Endowment's website for more information about other grant initiatives.

For more information about this initiative, please refer to the Request for Proposals or the news release regarding the initiative, which may be accessed through the initiative webpage at lillyendowment.org.