



# Nurturing Children Through Worship and Prayer Initiative

2024

## Frequently Asked Questions

### General

- 1. We missed the deadline to submit an interest form. Is an Interest Form required to submit a proposal?**

No. An interest form is not required for an organization to submit a proposal.

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

No. The Interest Form is intended to indicate your organization's intent to submit a proposal, not for preliminary evaluations by the Endowment of the merit of potential proposals.

- 3. 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 sub-grants to collaborating organizations that will implement particular program activities. The amount of funds that the organization will distribute to collaborating organizations should be indicated in the budget submitted with the proposal.

- 4. 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. The Endowment grant funds cannot be used for lobbying or political activities per federal tax regulations. Please consult your organization's legal counsel for clarification.

- 5. 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.

- 6. Does the Endowment anticipate offering this opportunity again next year?**

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

- 7. Is there a page limit for appendices?**

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

**8. Is there a minimum grant amount an organization can request?**

No. The Endowment encourages organizations to apply for an amount appropriate to the expenses required for implementing the proposed program and to their capacities to sustain the program beyond the grant period.

**9. Are grant awards fully funded based on the request or will partial awards be given?**

While it is up to the Endowment's discretion, we expect that in most cases proposals will be evaluated and funding decisions will be based on the full amount requested by organizations.

**10. Where can we learn about related grant opportunities?**

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

## **Eligibility**

**11. May we apply if our organization serves adults and/or youth?**

The Endowment encourages organizations to design programs that focus the majority of activities on nurturing the faith of children between the ages of 0-12.

**12. May individual congregations apply?**

Yes, in some cases. However, the initiative is not intended to provide grants to individual congregations for the sole purpose of funding their own ministries. Rather, it is intended to support organizations that work with multiple congregations. If the purpose of the program is to work with multiple congregations, individual congregations may apply.

**13. Is a multi-site congregation considered more than one congregation?**

No. A multi-site congregation is considered one congregation for the purpose of this initiative. If multi-site congregations seek to work with groups of congregations beyond their own sites, it may consider submitting proposals to support these broader efforts. See response above.

**14. May an individual Christian preschool or Christian K-12 school apply?**

Yes, in some cases. However, the initiative is not intended to provide grants to individual schools for the sole purpose of funding their own ministries. Rather, it is intended to provide support and resources for congregations within their networks to enhance their ministries with children. Christian schools may consider submitting proposals that would share their wisdom and experiences about nurturing the faith of children with congregations. In other words, if the purpose of the program is to work with multiple congregations, individual schools may apply.

**15. 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.

**16. May an organization that is partnering with an organization that has a grant in this initiative apply for a grant themselves?**

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.

**17. May a new organization that has applied to the Internal Revenue Service for its Code section 501(c) (3) and public charity status but has not received it yet still apply?**

No. Organizations that are required to have IRS recognition as a public charity must receive notification from the IRS that confirms their public charity status before submitting proposals. Such organizations must submit a copy of the IRS Exempt Status Determination Letter with their proposal.

## **Proposal Guidance**

**18. May we speak with someone to discuss ideas, receive feedback on a proposal or obtain further clarification about the 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 carefully read the Request for Proposals and accompanying documents for guidance as you design your programs and prepare your proposals.

**19. What does the Endowment mean by children?**

The Endowment is especially interested in supporting programs designed to nurture the faith of children between the ages of 0-12.

**20. What does the Endowment mean by congregations?**

Congregations (a term that is meant to also include parishes) are Christian churches where people of all ages gather for regular worship and engage in other activities to enrich their religious and spiritual lives and work to serve their communities.

**21. 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.

**22. 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.

**23. 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.

**24. What is the minimum number of congregations an organization should propose to help?**

The Endowment anticipates funding proposals for programs that would work with at least a dozen or more congregations. During the review of proposals, the Endowment will give careful consideration to the scale of proposed programs and their potential to reach significant numbers of congregations and ministry leaders and the organizations' capacities to sustain a program, if successful, beyond the end of grant funding. A compelling case would need to be made for less than a dozen.

**25. Are capital improvement costs allowable for inclusion in proposals?**

Proposals in this initiative may establish new and/or enhance existing programs that support congregations as they design intergenerational corporate worship services and prayer practices that more intentionally and fully engage children and nurture their faith. Proposals may include only modest capital expenses that are directly associated with and required to implement the activities of the proposed program.

**26. Are indirect costs allowable for inclusion in a proposal?**

Yes. The Endowment allows organizations to request funds for indirect costs in their proposals. Indirect costs should not exceed 10 percent of the direct costs included in the proposed budget. For example, if an applicant requests a \$1.25 million grant, the maximum allowable indirect costs would be \$113,636 (approximately 10 percent of the \$1,136,364 in direct costs). Indirect costs are generally associated with more than one activity of the organization and cannot be assigned to a specific program, such as to finance office overall operations, utilities or insurance. Please see the Guide to Budget Preparation, which is provided on the initiative webpage on the Endowment's website for more guidance on indirect costs.

## Submission Guidance

**27. May an organization submit multiple proposals?**

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

**28. 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.

**29. 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 traditions, if such a program is appropriate for the organization's mission.

**30. 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).

**31. What documents should an organization submit if an audited financial statement is unavailable?**

Audited financial statements completed by a certified public accounting firm are preferred. If an organization does not have audited financial statements, the proposal should include a discussion about why these statements are not available. The organization also should provide financial statements reviewed externally by a certified public accounting firm. If the organization's financial statements have not been reviewed by an external entity, the organization should provide internal annual financial statements for the most recently completed fiscal year, which have been prepared by the organization's treasurer or chief financial officer, including a balance sheet and income and expense statement, along with footnotes, if footnotes are included.

**32. Should organizations submit financial documents for all organizations participating in a collaborative project?**

No. Only submit the financial documents for the organization requesting the grant.

**33. 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.

**34. 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.

**35. Is the May 6, 2024, submission deadline flexible?**

No. The Endowment will not accept proposals submitted after the deadline.

**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](http://lillyendowment.org).**