

Frequently Asked Questions

As of 4/21/26

In this frequently asked questions (FAQ) supplement, Indiana Youth Institute is pleased to share answers to several frequently asked questions regarding the invitation to apply for the SYPI Program Sustainability and Capacity Building Grants. Many other matters are addressed in the SYPI Program Sustainability and Capacity Building Grants Proposal Guidelines, which can be found at iyi.org/strengtheningyouth, and IYI encourages eligible applicants to review both the Proposal Guidelines and these FAQs carefully in considering submission of a request for funding under this initiative.

General

Is the submission checklist available?

The submission checklist is posted at iyi.org/strengtheningyouth

Are there any recommendations about any terms or vocabulary that applicants should avoid using?

The funding for SYPI comes from private dollars, and there are no language requirements or restrictions.

When will funding decisions be made?

Funding decisions are expected to be made during fall 2026.

Are the current guidelines for ages served the same for the new opportunity?

Yes, the same guidelines for who may be served by the grant remain in place.

If the Lilly Endowment granted us an extension for the first cycle, are we still eligible to apply for this sustainability proposal?

These are two separate opportunities. You may continue to complete the term of your 2023 grant while this new opportunity begins.

Does an extension preclude applying for this second opportunity or are we still eligible if we have yet to conclude the first grant?

These are two separate opportunities. You may continue to complete the term of your 2023 grant while this new opportunity begins.

Funding Priorities

Will funding support existing programming of the organization but was not directly listed in the original application?

The Proposal Guidelines state that program sustainability funds must be used to “continue and/or enhance programs that were initiated or expanded through the first SYPI grant.”

If we have changed (from our first proposal with permission from Lilly Endowment), is that allowed, for this second one?

The Proposal Guidelines state that program sustainability funds must be used to “continue and/or enhance programs that were initiated or expanded through the first SYPI grant.”

The grant RFP states that SYPI Program Sustainability and Capacity Building Grants will not support the creation of new programs or “new program locations.” We implemented a program at a church and met a new partner who would like us to implement it at his location. He has families there so this would expand or build our capacity with this program. Would that be allowed to build capacity?

The Proposal Guidelines state that Capacity Building funds must be used “to strengthen organizational capacities, such as evaluation, fundraising, marketing, technology, staff and board development, to help enable organizations to implement their programs more effectively and efficiently.”

Is the funding only for original programming or can it fund other parts of the organization?

The Proposal Guidelines state that program sustainability funds must be used to “continue and/or enhance programs that were initiated or expanded through the first SYPI grant. Sustainability efforts should focus on refining and fortifying existing SYPI supported programs and on raising funds from other sources so these programs can continue delivering impact. Sustainability efforts should focus on refining and fortifying existing SYPI supported programs and on raising funds from other sources so these programs can continue delivering impact.”

Can funds be used for IYI Consulting work?

Programs can define and use funds for contractual work from your selected vendors.

What are the parameters on technology? Are phone system updates, building cameras, and portable iPads considered Capital?

The Proposal Guidelines state that Capacity Building “funds to strengthen organizational capacities, such as evaluation, fundraising, marketing, technology, staff and board development, to help enable organizations to implement their programs more effectively and efficiently.”

Award Size & Budget

In the first round our max ask was set up around our 3-year budget, is that the same consideration for this round? I know it said there “We can apply for up to 50% of original award” but what if our budget now does that match that over a 3-year period?

The proposal guidelines state that applicants may request up to 50% of their original SYPI award amount. Unlike the prior application, this initiative does not ask for multiple years of your operating budget in the request.

Can unspent money from the first SYPI grant be rolled into the overall project budget for this second grant?

No, these are two distinct grants with two separate contracts. See your original contract for extension instructions. Funding may not be rolled over into this new opportunity.

With the first grant, Lilly Endowment funded fully at the start, will that be done the same for the second one?

The Proposal Guidelines state, “IYI anticipates that budgets may be evenly distributed across years but encourages applicants to allocate funds according to the needs of their proposed work.”

If administrative costs can be no more than 15% of total costs, what exactly constitutes administrative cost?

Items included in administrative costs are general expenses directly related to performing the activities involved in the proposed grant program. Items such as supplies, printing, postage, database management, IT support, and website hosting are typical entries in this category. There may be others as well. These items should be explained in the Budget Narrative.

Can you please define administrative costs? Conversations in the room have been around salaries. Some of us included increases in salaries, new hires, etc. in our current funding. Can we ask for similar items in the final round?

Please see the budget template for examples of budget categories including but not limited to contractors, fundraising, and salaries.

Are the salaries of staff who are working on SYPI-supported programs defined as a program cost and not an administrative cost for the purpose of the grant?

Please see the budget template for examples of budget categories including but not limited to contractors, fundraising, and salaries.

Is a fundraising consultant considered a fundraising cost and not an admin cost for the purpose of the grant?

Please see the budget template for examples of budget categories including but not limited to contractors, fundraising, and salaries.

Does administrative also include subcontractors?

Please see the budget template for examples of budget categories including but not limited to contractors, fundraising, and salaries.

Does the budget amount (up to 50%) need to include all costs?

Yes. You may request up to 50% of your original award amount, and this total must include all associated costs. For example, administrative costs (capped at 15%) must be included in the total requested amount.

Grant Term

What is the grant cycle?

Grants are up to three years long.

When will grants be awarded, and when will the grant year begin?

Grants are anticipated to begin in the fall of 2026.

What does the reporting look like over the three years?

Reporting expectations will be provided after grants are awarded.

Lilly Endowment awarded us a one-year extension. Can we still write this grant, but start the budget in Oct. 2027 and run it for 2 years? Can we still write it for 50%?

You may propose your timeline for less than three years, or you may run both the extension and the new proposed grant concurrently.

In regard to the "Up to 3 years" language: Can we apply for a 2-year grant with the same funding amount, 50% of SYPI grant?

The proposal guidelines state that the grant term is up to three years. You may propose a timeline for less than three years.

Grant Technical Assistance

Who would you want us to contact for questions?

Questions should be submitted to SYPI@iyi.org for inclusion in this FAQ document.

Who will be providing the coaching?

More information about grant feedback will be emailed in the coming weeks.

Will coaching be virtual or in person?

More information about grant feedback will be emailed in the coming weeks.