



Children and Youth Fund Grantmaking Criteria

Criteria Based on Task Force and Community Feedback

I. Organization Structure

- **Q. Does the organization need to be a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization or can they be a for-profit or individual to receive funding?**

A. The organization does not need to be a 501(c) 3 but if it is not, will need a fiscal agent who can act as the financial fiduciary for the organization.

- **Does the organization need to be an organization in which their primary services are youth-focused?**

The organization does not need to be an organization that only provides youth-focused services

- **Does the organization have to be a local organization or could it represent Baltimore, Maryland or be a national organization?**

The organizations do not have to be local organizations but efforts that show a history and focus locally are significantly preferred. If national organizations are to be considered, they must have an accountability mechanism to local residents to receive funding. Local organizations would be heavily preferred.

- **Has the organization received funding from the City of Baltimore before and does it matter how many or how much funding the organization receives from the city?**

It does not matter if the organization has a history or does not have a history of funding from the City of Baltimore. If the organization has or is receiving funding from the City of Baltimore, the amount or percentage should have no bearing on whether they receive Youth Fund assistance.

- **Does it matter what the demographic and social economic make-up of the board, leadership and staff of the organization?**

Both the Task Force and community discussion stated that organizations that had governance, leadership and program staff that reflected the communities in which the services are provided are preferred over organizations with structures that do not.

- **Does it matter if the organization has staff and whether the staff all paid, all volunteers, or a mixture?**

A staff structure with paid staff does not have any preferred position to an organization that has an all-volunteer staff. Both Task Force and community members cited the importance of program impact over the make-up and structure of the organization. Additionally, both organizations with staff and non-staff structures would be eligible to receive the capacity building supports provided by the Youth Fund

II. Organization Capability

- **Can the organization have one program or a multitude of programs that serve young people?**

The organization can have one program or a number of programs that focus on serving young people.

- **Should the organization have a program focus that focuses on either early childhood, elementary, teens, young adults, families or all of these areas?**

The organization can have a program focus on a single youth area or age or a multitude of areas and ages.

- **Can the organization serve a block, neighborhood, census tract or multiple areas of Baltimore?**

The organization can serve an area as small as one block, a census tract or any neighborhood or community that they can outline

- **Is the organization's financial health a factor and should the organization have an audit and/or have a strong cash-flow or balance sheet? Should they have fund-diversity in funding types (earned income, foundations, individual donors, etc.)?**

The organization, or its fiscal agent, does not have a financial health stronger than being able to successfully implement the programs that they have outlined in their proposal.

- **Does the organization have to be youth-focused in their programming or have a history of serving young people?**

The organization does not have to be solely youth-focused in their programming or have a history in serving young people although approaches to serving and having impact on behalf of young people would be more

It should be noted that experience and history of serving young people can come in a number of forms, including program leaders history of living amongst and working with the young people in their defined communities being as or more valuable as an organization's history in serving young people as a whole.

- **Is the funding for general operating or for program-specific funding, or both?**

Funding from the Youth Fund can be general operating support and for specific program-related efforts.

III. Project Questions

- **If the Youth Fund will be used for program funding, does the organization need to know the exact population that the funding will be used for?**

The organization will need to have a plan for how it will improve outcomes for the youth they plan on working with. They will not need to know exactly the population or young people that will be using or benefitting from their services.

- **Does the organization need to know the exact impacts that the programs will need to reach?**

The organization will need to have a plan on how they will execute services to the betterment of the young people they aim to serve and knowing exact program impacts they aim to achieve can be helpful, but not a requirement for receiving Youth Fund funding.

- **Does the organization need to know how the programs will be administered to obtain Youth Fund dollars?**

As part of the organization's application, organizations will need to be able to identify a plan, which should include specific programs that will be used to implement the plan.

- **Does the organization need to know the exact location where the programming will take place and the exact timeline for how the services will be delivered?**

The organization will need to identify the neighborhoods and communities that they will serve young people but do not need to know the exact locations of where the services will be delivered at the time of their application.

- **Does the organization need to know the exact impact or difference the programs will make in their communities and know exactly how their programs have been successful in meeting the needs of young people?**

As part of the organization's application, organizations will need to be able to identify a plan, which should include specific programs that will be used to implement the plan but will not at the time of application need to know the exact impact or difference the programs will make. They should identify the impact or difference their efforts hope to make in the communities they serve, especially in Baltimore's disenfranchised communities.

- **Can the Youth Fund be used for once-off projects or a pilot or seed project to test a new approach that might then be taken to scale?**

The Youth Fund can be used for once-off, pilot or seed projects that can test a new idea that may be able to be brought to scale at a later date. Additionally, the Youth Fund will be able to make multi-year funding engagements based on the organizations projected plan for serving and obtaining impact for young people in the communities it aims to serve, especially in Baltimore's disenfranchised communities.

IV. Budget

- **Do organizations need to know the total cost of the project? Is there a specific limit of how much the Youth Fund can be of the total project or organizational budget?**

As part of the organization's plan for serving young people in the communities it aims to serve, especially in Baltimore's disenfranchised communities, the organization should have as part of that plan an understanding of where the proposed funding will be spent. There is not a specific limit to how much the Youth Fund should be of the total project or organizational budget.

- **Is it important to know if there are other funders or funding strategies being used to fund the total program and who/what those areas might be?**

While having this information might be an important part of the organization's plan and program or project sustainability is an important, it should not be a requirement of obtaining Youth Fund dollars.

- **Is it important to know whether the project will continue past the funding period – and if so, where does the applicant hope to obtain future funding outside of the Youth Fund?**

If the project is not a once-off, pilot or seed project, then program or project sustainability is an important criterion for the Youth Fund in considering whether a program or project should receive Youth Fund dollars

To this end, both Task Force and the community discussion have highlighted capacity building as an important aspect of the Youth Fund dollars and focus. The Youth Fund should dedicate a meaningful and significant part of its outlay to building the

- **Can the Youth Fund assist early-stage organizations and programs or does the effort need to have a history and budget position to be considered for the Youth Fund?**

The Youth Fund can assist early-stage organizations and programs or does NOT need to have a history and budget position to be considered for the Youth Fund.

- **Does the organization or program need to have realistic timetable, plan and overall budget to be considered for the Youth Fund?**

For consideration for the Youth Fund, the organization applying will need to have a plan outlined on how it will obtain impact for young people in the communities it aims to serve, especially in Baltimore's disenfranchised communities. This plan can include a realistic timetable, plan and overall budget.

V. Context

- **Does it matter who else does this work in their field or community or can multiple organizations or programs serving the exact same community not matter for Youth Fund consideration.**

While both Task Force and community members cited the importance of partnership and collaboration in helping to achieve impact young people in the communities, especially in Baltimore's disenfranchised communities, for applying to the Youth Fund, multiple organizations or programs that serve the exact same community are eligible for Youth Fund consideration.

- **Does the organization need to show that there is a specific need for the program and services they are aiming to deliver. Should this be substantiated by research?**

While showing a specific need relating to young people in a specific community could be an important part of the organization's plan, it should not be a requirement of obtaining Youth Fund dollars. Community members cited that qualitative data is as important as quantitative data in both showing need and potential impacts to be reached for young people in communities, especially in Baltimore's disenfranchised communities.