

Thriving Youth, Stronger Communities
Frequently Asked Questions

The following frequently asked questions are for the Lohengrin Foundation’s Thriving Youth, Stronger Communities – a youth and community center capital investment opportunity. For more information about the grant program, our approach, eligibility, and the application process, please visit our website at www.lohengrinfdn.org. On our website, you can also find a recording of our Info Session on November 7, 2024, and a copy of the deck that was presented during the Info Session.

1. The Grant Opportunity:

- **What does the Lohengrin Foundation aim to accomplish through Thriving Youth, Stronger Communities?**
 - The Foundation seeks to offer capital and programmatic operating support to a nonprofit partner for the development or creation of a new youth and community center. We aim to serve as an early investor in a capital investment project leading to a comprehensive youth and community center.
- **How should we think about the balance between a “youth center” and a “community center”?**
 - The Foundation seeks to invest in the development of a youth center that also provides wraparound services and programming for community members of all ages.
- **How do you define youth?**
 - Youth – ages 0-21.
- **Must the youth and community center serve all youth?**
 - Yes, the Lohengrin Foundation seeks to support a youth center that provides programming for young people of all ages (0-21).
- **How many grants will be awarded:**
 - The Foundation is committed to funding one project.
- **What is the grant award size?**
 - The Foundation is committed to investing up to \$15M for one project. The Foundation will not fund more than 50% of the total overall cost of any project awarded.

- **When will the grant funds be accessible?**
 - The grant recipient will be able to access the first installment of grant funds at the completion of a mutually signed project and capital grant agreement, which will outline key funding disbursement milestones. We anticipate the first funding installment payment will be released within 30–45 days after receiving award notification. Anticipated funding disbursements will occur during the pre-development stage, at the initiation of construction, and during occupancy for post-capital development support. No project will be eligible for funding for a single stage of the capital development process or lifecycle. The Foundation seeks to be an early investor in a project and support the center through the varied capital development stages until the center is built.
- **What is the required timeline of the project?**
 - The Foundation aims to support a project that could be realized within 3–5 years.
- **What type of projects will be considered?**
 - The Foundation will consider varied projects ranging from stand-alone youth and community centers to centers that are part of a larger economic or community development strategy or capital projects such as a housing or health center. Ultimately, this initiative will only allocate funding to the youth and community center aspect of any larger strategy whose ability to be built is not dependent on the realization of other aspects of a larger economic development/capital project.
- **Which communities are being prioritized?**
 - While the Foundation does not have pre-determined target communities in Chicago for this initiative, successful applicants will propose a center within a historically disinvested community with demonstrable need and limited available youth and community resources for the total target youth and overall service population.
- **Can I seek funding for technical assistance?**
 - No, the Foundation is not providing direct funding for technical assistance support. Organizations are encouraged to utilize a partner within the network of partners available. The Foundation will cover allocated costs associated with any technical assistance received from partners. Technical Assistance provided between partners and applicants is confidential and specific details of TA will not be shared with the Foundation.

2. **Eligibility:**

- **What size organizations do you fund?**
 - We fund organizations of various sizes.
- **Where must the youth and community center be located?**
 - Chicago proper.
- **Can I apply if I have already received a grant from the Lohengrin Foundation?**
 - The Lohengrin Foundation only makes one grant per organization per 12-month period, except in the case of special initiatives. Thriving Youth, Stronger Communities is a special initiative. To that end, current grantee partners, as well as prospective grantee partners are eligible to apply for this special capital investment opportunity.

3. **The Two-Step Application Process – Letter of Interest (LOI) and Full Application:**

- **Are there any formatting requirements on the LOI or Full Application? (i.e. font size, margin size, character limits?)**
 - The LOI and the Full Application do not have any specific formatting requirements, such as font and margin considerations.
 - There are no character limits for the Letter of Interest or Full Application. However, we expect LOIs to range between 4-6 pages in length, including financials.
- **How can I submit my LOI Application?**
 - The LOI application link is available on the Lohengrin Foundation website at www.lohengrinfdn.org.
 - The Foundation will only accept LOI applications through our online form and by the deadline of December 6, 2024, by 11:59 p.m.
- **On the LOI portal, can you save as you go, or do you have to complete it all at once?**
 - You can save your application as you go.
- **How can I submit my Full Application?**
 - Select Applicants will be invited to submit a Full Application. To that end, our Full Application Form link will be made available to invited organizations that advance to the Full Application stage

4. How Grant Funds May Be Allocated:

- **Can the funds be used for the operational costs of newly developing sites? or is it limited to capital development only?**
 - We seek to support the success of the project at all stages of the development and the needs of our grantee partner. We look to our selected grantee partner to inform the Foundation of specific needs at various stages of the project.
- **Can a portion of the funds be used on agency staff during the first phase of a project?**
 - Yes, if those costs are directly associated with the development of the site.
- **Can projects also include residential uses?**
 - Yes.
- **Will capital improvements to an existing youth center (with site control) be considered?**
 - No. We are looking to support the creation of a new youth and community center or the renovation of an existing building structure to a new youth and community center. Ultimately, the goal is to increase opportunities for young people to access support and resources.
 - **The Lohengrin Foundation would like to learn from applicants about other major youth centers that are located near the proximate location for their proposed youth and community center project. Describe what you mean "Other major youth centers?"**
 - We mean organizations that have comprehensive youth and community centers, such as the Boys and Girls Clubs of Chicago, Chicago Youth Centers, YMCA, etc.
- **Is there a distance that is considered proximate? Is that within one mile, five miles?**
 - We lean to our applicants to share what they consider proximity to another comprehensive youth and community center.
- **How do you define the point where a project is realized?**
 - A project is realized as it moves through the pre-construction, construction, occupancy, and post-occupancy phases.