

Thriving Youth, Stronger Communities

Youth and Community Center Capital Investment Initiative

Information Session
November 2024

LOHENGRIN
FOUNDATION

Thriving Youth, Stronger Communities

Youth and Community Center Capital Investment Initiative



Welcome

Welcome

- Please put your name, pronouns (optional), and organization's name in the chat.
- Complete the Slido Poll as we prepare to start the session.

Join at [slido.com / #3571 418](https://slido.com/#3571418)



Housekeeping

- Please make sure your mic is muted unless called upon.
- Feel free to put questions into the chat as we go.



How did you hear about the Thriving Youth, Stronger Communities Initiative?

① Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.



What Chicago community/neighborhood do you anticipate to serve through a potential youth or community center?

① Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

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Agenda

- Introduction to the Lohengrin Foundation
- Background & Introduction to the Thriving Youth, Stronger Communities Initiative
 - Applicant and Project Eligibility
 - Grant Award and Funding Schedule
 - Application Timeline
- Letter of Interest Components
 - The Importance of centering community
 - The Review Process
 - Community Advisory Council
 - FAQs & Question and Answer Session
- Next Steps

About the Foundation

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Thriving Youth, Stronger Communities

Youth and Community Center Capital Investment Initiative

The Lohengrin Foundation is a private family foundation established in 1963 and located in Chicago, IL.

The Foundation's mission is to advance equity, opportunity, and justice to eradicate systemic barriers and promote vibrant, safe, and thriving communities.

We partner with and invest in organizations that guide transformational programs, advocacy, and policy initiatives to drive social impact and systems change.

The Foundation's values are **Equity, Opportunity, Justice,** and **Collaboration.**

Rooted in Community



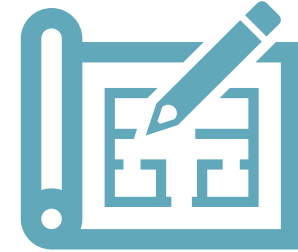
Listening Sessions

In 2023, the Lohengrin Foundation held listening sessions as part of its strategic planning process.



Alignment

We aligned feedback and needs outlined by the community with interest of the foundation to develop strategic grantmaking priorities and special initiatives.



Strategy Feedback

We held strategy insight, feedback and brainstorming conversations with peer funders, community leaders, and developers, and youth center leaders.

To help shape and inform this initiative, we engaged more than 40 leaders from community organizations, youth serving agencies, foundations and civic leaders.

Data-Informed Approach

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Chicago's Youth Population

Chicago's school-aged population hovers just under 450,000, representing approximately 17% of the city's population, with over 320,000 youth enrolled in Chicago Public Schools.



Positive Trends for Older Youth / Young Adults

A downward trend in shootings and violence exposure for 20–29-year-olds since 2021 offers some hope, but this is not the case for Chicago's youngest and most vulnerable population.



Negative Trends

Since 2021, the number of young people in Chicago has decreased, while varied negative health and crime statistics have increased over the same period, with nearly 20% of youth exposed to increased incidents of violence in 2023.



Research on Youth Development

The extensive body of research on the positive impact of site-based youth and community development efforts has prompted the Lohengrin Foundation to launch this initiative.

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Our Vision for the Initiative

The Foundation seeks to be an early investor in a transformative youth and community center that will be realized in 3-5 years and serve as a hub for educational, recreational, and social programs, empowering young people and strengthening the broader community.

Applicant Eligibility

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Eligible Applicants

- Non-profit, charitable organizations as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the IRS tax code.



Ineligible Applicants

- For-profit organizations
- Individuals
- Schools (though schools may apply in collaboration with a non-profit partner).

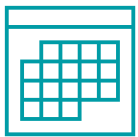
Project Eligibility

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Chicago Sites Only



3-5 Years

Projects should be able to be realized in 3-5 years.



Project Eligibility

- ❑ Projects must focus on a new construction youth and community center or the conversion of an existing building into a youth and community center.
- ❑ The Foundation does not seek out or encourage naming rights on behalf of the Foundation, its board, staff, or predecessors.
- ❑ While we seek out partners who propose projects that meet the specific needs of their communities, projects that exclude potential participants or limits engagement of community members in programming or use of the facility because of their ethnicity, religion, gender, spiritual beliefs, sexual orientation, veteran status, disability, or immigration status will not be considered.

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Other Considerations

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Target Communities

While there are no predetermined target communities for this initiative, special consideration will be provided to proposed sites in neighborhoods with high youth density populations and limited or no existing comprehensive youth and community centers or equivalent sites.

Types of Projects

The Lohengrin 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, the Foundation will only allocate funding to the youth and community center aspect of any larger strategy in which its ability to be built, is not dependent on the realization of other aspects of the project.

Grant Award

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The Foundation anticipates awarding one grant, totaling up to \$15M, to support our grantee partner throughout the pre-development, construction, and occupancy phases of their project.

The grant award amount will be based on the full scope and size of the final project, including the number of youths to be served and potential community impact.

The Foundation does not expect its funding to support more than 50% of the overall project's total development costs.

Funding Schedule & Milestones

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Funds are expected to be disbursed in five installments, aligned to various project phases, including:

- Pre-development.
- At the beginning of construction.
- At an agreed-to funding milestone during construction.
- At occupancy.
- At post-occupancy to support the center operations.

LOI Components

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Project Overview

A brief overview of the proposed project, including the project name, description, proposed site location, timeline and anticipated and confirmed partnerships.



Your Vision for the Future

The story behind the project, the targeted community and the intended impact of the proposed youth and community center.



Funding the Vision

Provide details on the capital and operating budget for the project, including anticipated funding sources, committed and pending funding, and plans for long-term sustainability.

While we don't have specific word limits in any parts of the LOI, we anticipate the final submitted LOIs to be 4-6 pages in length, including financials.

Centering Community

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Community Boundaries

Describe the targeted service neighborhood boundaries and the proximity to other major youth-serving community assets such as schools, early childhood or other youth and community centers.

Community Partners

List the community partners firmly committed to the project through a memorandum of understanding or formal agreement.

Community Engagement

Describe how youth and other community partners are engaged and involved in the design and development of the proposed site.

Community Need

Explain the need for the community center in the targeted neighborhood, including any data or statistics to support the identified need.

Community Impact

Outline the intended community impact and the specific population of community members you anticipate supporting through the center.

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Community-Centered Development

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Community Center Advisory Council

A coalition of community and youth leaders, capital investment funders and community development professionals advising on the screening, application, and selection process.



Community Champions Network

Experienced network of nonprofit leaders with direct experience leading youth and community center development projects. All champions have guided projects from concept, and fundraising to construction and occupancy. The champions serve as a resource network for applicants.



Youth Density Index Review and Community Engagement Strategy

All applicants are required to conduct a youth density index and have a youth and community engagement process informing the project's development.

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Community Advisory Council



KAREESHMA ALI

Pritzker Traubert
Foundation



KRISTIAN ARMENDARIZ

Little Village Community
Council, Metropolitan
Tenants Organization



ZAHARA BASSETT

Life is Work



CYNTHIA CORNELIUS

Cabrini Green Legal Aid



CHRIS EAGAN

Steans Family
Foundation



SOL FLORES

Knight Impact Partners



GHIAN FOREMAN

Emerald South Economic
Development Collaborative



BERNARDO GOMEZ

Mayor's Office,
Community Safety
Coordination Center



MONICA HORTON

American Society of
Retina Specialist



BROOKE JENKINS

Mayor's Youth
Commission

Thriving Youth, Stronger Communities

Community Advisory Council



MOLLY LEONARD

JPMorgan Chase & Co



CELIA LOZANO

Tides Foundation



MARCO MENDEZ

State of Illinois, IL House 03



AJ PATTON

548 Enterprise



JOSE RODRIGUEZ

Robert R. McCormick
Foundation



SACELLA SMITH

Illinois Department of
Commerce and
Economic Opportunity



DR. L DAVID STEWART

Territory NFP, Climate
Action Museum



KAYLA VILLALOBOS

VOCEL



STENDER VON OEHSN

Mayor's Office, Department
of Family and Support
Services



CHRISTEN WIGGINS

Chicago Community
Trust

Applicant Timeline

Thriving Youth, Stronger Communities Youth and Community Center Capital Investment Initiative



● October 15, 2024

Release of Letters of Interest guidelines and details

● February 3, 2025

Full application guidelines released

● May 2, 2025

Full applications due by 11:59 p.m. CT

● June 30, 2025

Finalist Status Notifications

● December 6, 2024

Letters of Interest due by 11:59 p.m. CT

● February 11, 2025

Applicant Technical Assistance and Support Convening (in-person)

● Summer 2025

Finalist interviews and Partner Selection

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Technical Assistance & Support For Applicants

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Technical Assistance Network

Applicants receive access to a network of technical assistance resources to provide support and counsel during the application process.



Applicant Technical Assistance & Community Champion Convening

A convening for applicants to introduce technical advisors, community champions and engage in hands-on learning sessions and panels regarding key aspects of the development process.



Community Champions Network

Experienced network of nonprofit leaders with direct experience leading youth and community center development projects. All champions have guided projects from concept, and fundraising to construction and occupancy. The champions serve as a resource pool for applicants.

Frequently Asked Questions

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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 the project.

What size project will be considered?

While we are considering projects of varied sizes, the Foundation does not seek to be the sole or majority funder of any successful project. Applicants are discouraged from modifying project scope or size just for our application process.

What ages does the youth and community center have to serve?

The Foundation aims to support a comprehensive youth and community center and considers youth to be individuals from 0–21 years of age. The Foundation does not seek to solely fund an early childhood center, but will consider sites that may include early childhood centers with K–12 programming for children and youth, and young adult, adult, or senior programming.

Frequently Asked Questions

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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, at the completion 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.

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.

Frequently Asked Questions

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Can I apply for this initiative if I currently receive a grant from the Foundation?

Yes, given this is a special initiative, current grantee partners can and are encouraged to apply for funding support under the Thriving Youth, Stronger Communities Initiative.

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 all cost 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.

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Question and Answer Session

Please use the raise hand feature or type your question in the chat. Our moderator will all upon you or read your question aloud.

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One-on-One sessions are optional and are an opportunity for prospective applicants to ask organizational specific questions to support them through the application process.



One-on-One Sessions

- A registration link will be sent out after each information session to attendees to register as needed.
- During the registration and scheduling process, all partners will be asked to submit questions or areas they would like to discuss in order to complete the scheduling process.
- Nothing discussed during the one-on-one session will be taken into account during the LOI or Application review process.
- All sessions will be 20 minutes in length
- Applicants are also encouraged to submit questions to us via e-mail at thrivingyouth@lohengrinfdn.org.



Close Out

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Submit a letter of interest via our website at
www.lohengrinfdn.org

E-mail questions to us at:
thrivingyouth@lohengrinfdn.org

Stay connected with us via LinkedIn:



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