

## **Paul G. Allen Family Foundation**

### **Request for Proposals: Mobilizing Young Leaders Across Washington State**

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The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation is launching a new initiative that will invest up to \$5 million in new and existing programs in Washington state that develop youth impact through leadership training, civic engagement, and/or youth organizing.

Youth are not just the future - they are paying attention now and eager to act, but not all young people have the resources, knowledge, skills, or support to participate and lead. We believe that supporting youth to act involves myriad components, from opportunities for youth to identify their purpose and passions to hands-on experiences that enable youth to apply critical thinking and use their voices to advocate for lasting change.

The [Mobilizing Young Leaders Across WA State RFP](#) supports new and existing programs in Washington state that support youth engagement and build youth power through **leadership training, civic engagement, and/or youth organizing** (see definitions below).

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#### **Definitions & Data**

**Youth** – for the purposes of this RFP, we define youth as young people between the ages of 13-18

**Leadership training** – e.g., builds skills and capacity to be problem solvers and decision-makers, develops self-and community-awareness, deepens understanding of experiences and contexts that may contribute to positive or negative community outcomes, supports positive peer-to-peer and youth/adult relationships and partnerships

**Civic engagement** – e.g., participation in community projects/events, civic education and awareness, opportunities for advocacy and negotiation, analysis of issues and opportunities related to issues that youth care about

**Youth organizing** – e.g., engagement of youth as decision-makers, networking to build relationships and alliances, participation in collective action initiatives

Research shows that when youth engage in activities that activate their interests and passions, they gain more confidence, information, and tools needed to engage with each other and the world. Read the Funders' Collaborative on Youth Organizing research to learn more about the data behind advancing youth organizing as a strategy for positive youth development.

[Click here to read the research](#)

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#### **RFP Description**

We are looking for programs with up to a three-year timeline that will achieve at least one of the following objectives:

- **Support youth:** advance models that support youth engagement as defined above

- **Advance understanding:** contribute knowledge, data, and insights on key elements including (but not limited to) supports that result in the greatest contribution to individual engagement and development, and community/contextual factors that accelerate or impede youth engagement, collaborative practices that generate stronger youth outcomes and organizational impact.
- **Build youth power:** positively affect the extent to which youth are viewed as critical perspectives and voices in informing decision-making, increase the extent to which youth actively participate in decision-making.

We particularly encourage applications that include the following **partner** considerations:

- **Local leadership** – led by individuals residing in and with deep knowledge of the communities that the organization serves
- **Community-based** – demonstrates knowledge and understanding of local context, norms, and needs in their community
- **Centered on youth voice** – driven and informed by youth voice, experience, and expertise

We particularly encourage applications that include the following **program design** considerations:

- **Youth informed and/or led** – designed and/or led in partnership with youth
- **Intergenerational** – involves intentional relationship development and partnership across generations to share knowledge, culture, traditions, and skills
- **Representation** – engages youth historically underrepresented and underserved by youth programs, i.e. LGBTQ+, BIPOC, Indigenous
- **Geographic area** – engages youth in geographically underrepresented and underserved areas of Washington state, particularly outside of Seattle and Greater Puget Sound
- **Topics** – uses arts & culture and/or environmental science and conservation in their youth engagement approach

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### **Program Elements**

We will prioritize proposals that meet several (not necessarily all) of the following criteria:

- Demonstrated and articulated organization, programmatic, and/or community need
- Clarity on near- and longer-term objectives, including those that will enable success and future scaling to achieve greater impact
- Clear approach and readiness – proposals must specify the specific programmatic elements that, together, lead to stronger youth engagement
- Multi/cross-disciplinary approach leveraging arts and culture and/or environmental science and conservation as core programmatic elements

- Baseline data and/or plan for establishing baseline data – baseline data will be used to measure and understand impact – and definition of how the program/initiative will generate evidence of impact
- Collaboration and community partnership
- Sustainability – articulation of how the program and organization intends to meet resource needs (financial, human capital, community relationships, etc.) required to enable long-term success and viability

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### **Eligibility**

- U.S. registered tax-exempt 501c(3) organization and/or working under the fiscal sponsorship of a U.S. registered tax-exempt 501c(3) organization
- Organizations based outside Washington State are eligible to apply if the project/work is taking/will take place in Washington State
- Programs must be able to articulate impact and develop a measurement and learning plan

[Click here to start your LOI](#)

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### **Key Dates**

- **Oct. 8, 2024** – deadline for prospective applicants to submit questions for FAQ
- **Oct. 10, 2024** – [live informational webinar](#)
- **Nov. 7, 2024** – LOI submission deadline
- **Nov. 20, 2024** – organizations invited to submit full proposals
- **Q2 2025** – awards granted

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### **Funding Level**

We will consider proposals for grant awards of up to \$500,000 for each project, with a grant term of up to three years. Indirect costs may be included and will be considered for up to 10% of the total proposed project budget.

### **We will not consider funding for**

- Activities taking place outside of Washington State
- Applications from individual schools or individual school districts (applicant can be an organization working in partnership with a school(s) or school district(s))
- Research projects without connections to community-based programs

- Direct grants to individuals or scholarships
- Capital or endowment campaigns or requests
- Lobbying or direct political activities

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### **Webinar**

There is webinar on **Oct. 10, 2024** to learn about the application process, requirements, and criteria, and answers to applicant questions.

[Click here to sign up for the webinar](#)

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **How is this initiative funded?**

This work will be supported by the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation.

### **Is there a minimum number of youth that must be served by a proposal?**

No. We are interested in applications that can expand beyond current youth served to include youth in more (and potentially more varied) contexts, e.g. geography, demographics. Growing reach looks different in different contexts (e.g. a rural area vs an urban setting); if you believe your program has the potential to eventually achieve larger reach, we encourage you to apply.

### **Can proposed projects take place outside Washington State?**

Proposed efforts must take place in Washington State.

### **Is there a preferred size of project?**

We are open to whatever scale the applicant feels is most appropriate.

### **Is there a typical grant amount?**

We will consider proposals for grant awards of up to \$500,000 for each project, with a grant term of up to three years; we are considering funding 7-10 proposals.

### **Why is there an LOI and a proposal phase?**

The LOI is meant to be a quick way to share your project idea with us to see if it meets our RFP criteria. Prospective grantees that, upon review, do meet our criteria will then be asked to submit a full proposal, where more information about a project can be provided.

### **Is there a specific budget template that is required for the LOI?**

No.

### **What is the timeline for the RFP?**

The RFP consists of an LOI stage and a proposal stage. **The deadline for LOIs will be Thursday November 7, 2024 at 11:59pm PST.** The foundation will assess LOIs based on their eligibility and relevance to the RFP criteria and preferences on a rolling basis. **LOIs that are selected will be asked to submit a full proposal by January 2025.** Full proposals will be evaluated by a panel of independent external experts, which the foundation team will then use as a basis for recommendations for funding and a determination of funding awards.

### **Is there a limit on indirect costs?**

Indirect costs may be included and will be considered for up to 10% of the total proposed project budget.

### **Can funding be allocated to multiple organizations?**

No, we ask that applicants have a lead organization that will be responsible for disbursing funds to partner/collaborating organizations.

**Can monitoring and evaluation costs be included in the budget?**

Yes, if monitoring and evaluation are core components of the project's objectives, please include appropriate costs in the budget.

**Will you provide reviewer comments on the LOI or proposal?**

No. We do not provide feedback on LOIs or proposals.

**Can multiple organizations apply together?**

We will consider funding for proposals that include collaboration between multiple organizations; however, projects seeking to make pass-through grants will not be considered.

**What can funding be used for?**

Grantees are to propose how they would use funding to support the goals of this RFP and of their intended work. We do not want to prescribe how funds will be used and are eager to understand how prospective grantees will optimize funds to grow their learning and impact.

**Can you offer some examples of the types of programs that might be funded?**

We seek to identify and fund a diverse complement of organizations, programs, and contexts. Assuming core eligibility criteria are met, we invite creative proposals that address partner and program considerations and elements. Four theoretical examples:

**Example A.** *A community-based organization developed a youth leadership program that builds critical knowledge and skills and focuses on youth leadership and organizing in conservation. The organization has early indicators that suggest positive impact at the individual and community levels. Currently working with 50 youth across different schools in the community, the nonprofit is interested in accelerating learning and capacity for growing the program to serve more students.*

**Example B.** *A youth-serving nonprofit organization seeks to develop and/or expand a program focusing on youth arts as a form of civic engagement to elevate youth voice and empower them to act on issues they care about.*

**Example C.** *A community-based nonprofit organization is interested in establishing a youth advisory board that will work intergenerationally to shape programs and organizational priorities that are responsive to youth needs.*

**Example D.** *An organization that works nationally across a network of different states to provide a younger generation of civic leaders with development and learning opportunities with peers. This organization seeks to expand their efforts to build a stronger youth civic engagement ecosystem and a new set of youth ready and equipped to lead in Washington state.*

**When will funding be disbursed?**

The anticipated distribution timeline is Q2 to Q3 2025.

**\*Please visit the [PGAFF website](#) for the most updated information\***