



Indy Summer Youth Programs

2026 Summer Youth Program Fund Orientation

Welcome



Ahmed Young
President & CEO of
Indianapolis Foundation



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Program Director,
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Today's Agenda

- Welcome & Overview
- Turn & Talk
- SYPF Process & Timeline
- Funder Priorities
- Exercise: Identifying Your Program Type
- Partner Resources
 - MCCOY
 - Indiana Afterschool Network
 - Indy Parks
 - Gleaners
- Wrap-Up/Next Steps
- Optional Workshops



Thank you to today's Sponsors!

- Indianapolis Foundation
- Lilly Endowment Inc.
- Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation
- Martin University



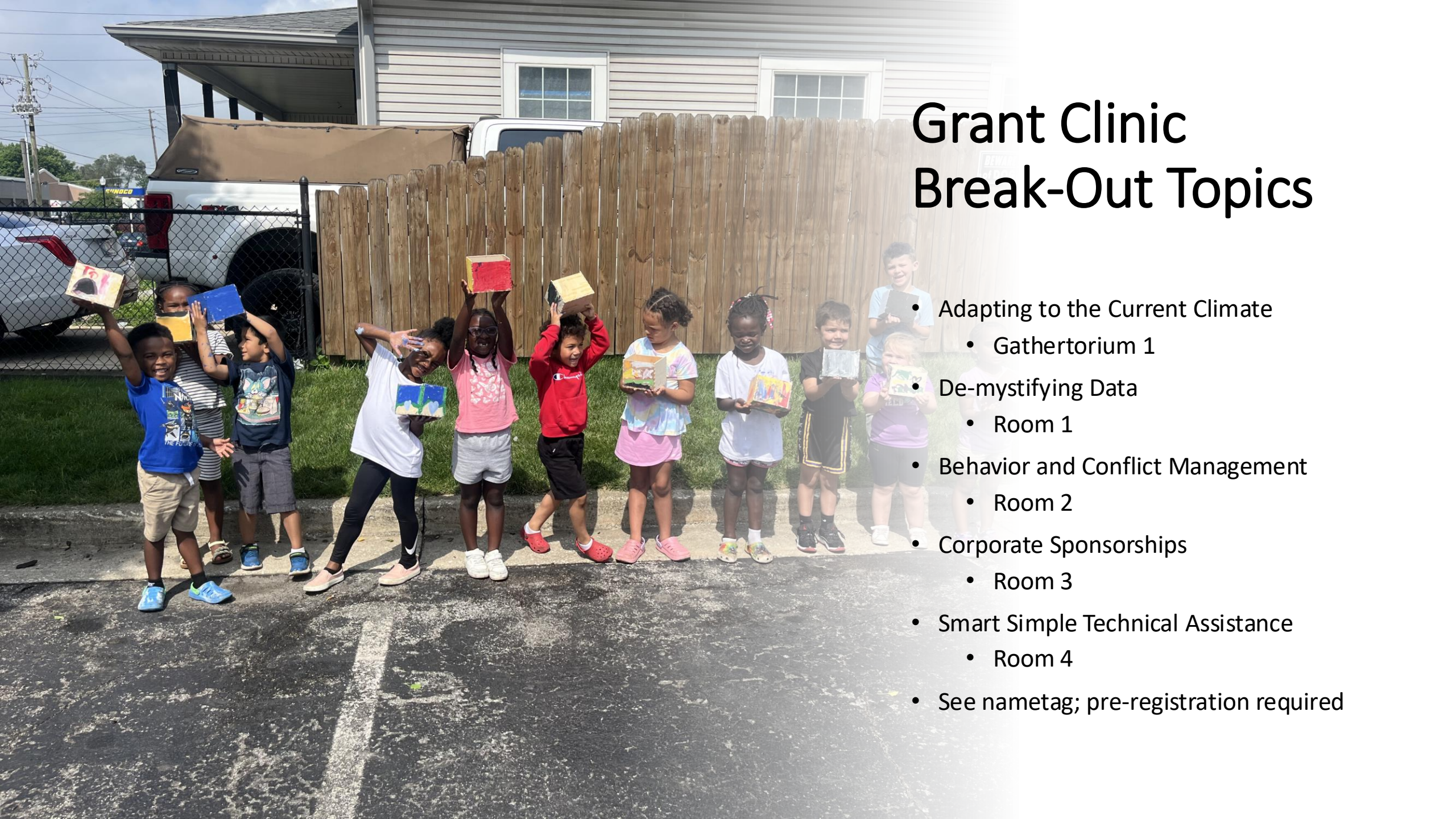
Welcome to Our Partners!

- Gleaners Food Bank
- Indiana Afterschool Network
- Indy Parks & Recreation
- Marion County Commission on Youth



Grant Clinic Break-Out Topics

- Adapting to the Current Climate
 - Gathertorium 1
- De-mystifying Data
 - Room 1
- Behavior and Conflict Management
 - Room 2
- Corporate Sponsorships
 - Room 3
- Smart Simple Technical Assistance
 - Room 4
- See nametag; pre-registration required



Turn & Talk

What surprised you most about how youth showed up or what they needed this summer?

A group of approximately 15-20 youth, mostly wearing light blue t-shirts, are engaged in a community service project in a wooded area. They are working around several large tree stumps and logs, some using tools like shovels and axes. The ground is covered with dirt, leaves, and some green plants. In the background, there are more trees, a grassy area, and a residential street with houses and a street lamp under an overcast sky. The overall scene depicts a group of young people participating in an environmental cleanup or reforestation activity.

How does SYPF work?

- Grant-seekers fill out one common application that all funders review.
- Applications are submitted through CICF's Smart Simple online platform.
- Funders make grants according to their own criteria but collaborate in the allocations process.
- Grantees submit one final report that all funders see.



How does SYPF work?

- Evaluators do site visits, focus groups and other check-ins over the course of the summer.
- Grantees have access to, and are encouraged to get, technical assistance, training and best practices from MCCOY.



What funding is available?

- **Program grants:** staff or youth wages, program materials and supplies, transportation, snacks, training, space rentals, equipment*
 - Programs must serve youth ages 4-24 during the summer for dedicated summer programs
 - The average allocation in 2025 was \$14,321 (the average request was \$26,986)
 - Many programs receive allocations from more than one funder
- **Capital grants:** From Lilly Endowment Inc.
 - Modest capital and equipment purchases for your summer program
 - Max request is \$45,000
 - A separate application due to LEI



2026 SYPF Timeline

- Applications open: Aug. 18
- Orientation : Sept. 10
- Applications due: Oct. 17 at 4pm
- Notifications: Week of February 2-6, 2026
- Payments: February through early April
- Programs: May-August
- Final reports: Due by 5pm on Sept. 29, 2026



What's in the application?

- Program description, primary category and focus area
- Information about length of program, fees, scholarships, and accommodations
- Program plans: what activities, how often, to accomplish what goals, how you'll measure
- Partners, transportation, meals, etc.
- Youth voice
- Demographics: who you serve (ages, race & ethnicity, language, disability)
- Staffing: how many, youth: staff ratio, qualifications, training



What's in the budget?

- **Table 1:** The overall cost of your summer program and how it breaks down across categories (staffing, youth wages, materials, transportation, food, space, training/certifications, etc.)
- **Table 2:** The sources of funding (SYPF, program fees, organization budget, other funders)
 - This table allows you to show how your request to SYPF would be spent across categories (staffing, materials, etc.)
 - This table also shows which funds you have "in hand" and which additional funds you're still seeking or waiting to hear from
- **Contingency:** How will you adjust plans if your full request is not met?



Changes for 2026

- If selected for a 2026 grant, is your organization willing to accept a government- funded award, disbursed on a cost reimbursement basis
- Has your program or organization been impacted by recent funding cuts
 - If yes, by how much
 - If yes, which funding sources have altered,
 - If yes, how is the funding shift impacting your organization and programming





Meet the Funders



**INDY
SUMMER
YOUTH
PROGRAMS**

Lilly Endowment Inc.



Lilly Endowment Inc.

A Private Philanthropic Foundation

Program Grants

- Academic achievement
- Arts enrichment
- Career exploration
- Leadership development
- Mentorship
- Recreation
- Youth employment
- Health and wellness

Capital Grants

- Examples: computer equipment, vans, instruments, playground equipment, minor building or grounds improvements such as fences, cooling equipment, etc.
- Expect to award 25-30 grants up to \$45k each
- Eligibility: must have been SYPF recipient two of last three years (2023, 2024 or 2025) AND will be a recipient of a program grant in 2026

Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation, Inc.

- Arts & humanities
- Use of arts for expression, healing, beauty, and/or knowledge



Department of Metropolitan Development

• Funding Requirements

- ★ Funding for eligible costs is disbursed on a **reimbursement basis** only
- ★ At least 51% of program participants must earn 80% or less of the Area Median Income (e.g. a family of four can make up to \$88,550)
- ★ Program focuses on **youth employment and career readiness**

Funding Priorities

- ★ High risk youth served
- ★ Participants paid \geq minimum wage
- ★ Transportation and meals provided
- ★ Participants previously involved with judicial system are not excluded
- ★ Trained and experienced staff

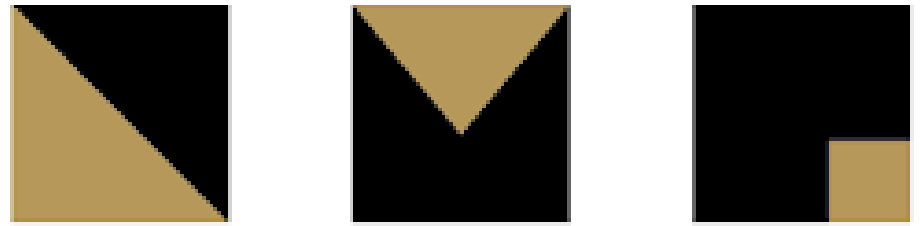
Cummins

- Academic Achievement
- Career Exploration
- Leadership Development
- Workforce Development
- Mentorship
- Summer Programming
- Extended Learning



Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust

- Programs that provide safe and educational opportunities in neighborhoods affected by high crime and poverty.
- Literacy programs
- Youth employment



NINA MASON PULLIAM
CHARITABLE TRUST

The Clowes Fund, Inc.

- Job skill training for youth with limited opportunities to access high-quality summer programming, including programs that primarily serve immigrant populations.



Anonymous Family Foundation

- Academic Enrichment
- Youth Employment
- Career Exploration



**INDY
SUMMER
YOUTH
PROGRAMS**



- Programs that serve a high percentage of BIPOC youth
- Grassroots and BIPOC-led organizations
- Programs that provide all-day care at low/no cost
- Hands-on and exploratory programs that close opportunity gaps for BIPOC youth
- Youth employment & skill development
- Academic achievement
- Through the Romine Fund, programs in above categories with a faith component

Indianapolis Foundation –Library Fund

- Summer programs at Library Fund-eligible institutions (The Indianapolis Public Library, Marion County high schools, Indiana University Indianapolis, Purdue University in Indianapolis, Marian University and University of Indianapolis)

A large, diverse group of young people, likely students, are posed in a gymnasium. They are arranged in several rows, with many individuals making peace signs (V-signs) with their hands. The group is diverse in ethnicity and appearance. The background is a light-colored tiled floor with dark lines. The overall mood is positive and energetic.

What's My Program Type?

Four Program Category (Pick 1)

- **DAILY:** Program meets daily throughout the summer and provides all-day, low-cost care to families; may incorporate many types of activities throughout the summer
- **YOUTH EMPLOYMENT:** The primary purpose of the program is to provide summer jobs to teens
- **OVERNIGHT OR RESIDENTIAL:** Traditional overnight camps, often but not always for a week-long experience
- **ENRICHMENT:** All other summer programs, including most arts, sports, academic enrichment, college or career exploration, and leadership development. Includes programs that "drop in" or partner with daily programs.



Eleven Focus Areas (Pick up to 3)

- Academic Enrichment
- Academic Remediation
- Arts
- College or career exploration
- Career skills training or entrepreneurship
- Food or nutrition
- Leadership development
- Mental health or SEL (Social-Emotional Learning)
- Outdoor recreation
- Physical fitness or sports
- STEM



This six-week program runs Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 6pm. Kids rotate through STEM experiments, team sports, arts & crafts, and receive breakfast and lunch every day. The program costs just \$25 a week.



Teens are hired to work 20 hours a week maintaining community gardens. They learn to budget their earnings, participate in weekly career-readiness workshops, and assist with local food distribution.



Middle schoolers attend a free overnight camp in the mountains for one week. They unplug from devices, participate in guided hikes, canoeing, and daily campfire discussions about friendships and emotions.



A two-week half-day camp offers a crash course in musical theatre. Participants ages 10–15 learn acting, choreography, and voice. The session ends with a live performance for families.



For six weeks, high school students meet at a local university for SAT prep, resume building, college essay writing, and campus tours. They also hear from guest speakers in different career fields.



Each morning for three weeks, elementary students struggling with reading meet in small groups to work on phonics and comprehension skills with certified teachers.



This free, full-day program serves lunch and provides drop-in workshops all summer. Kids can choose from soccer, painting, or garden club. Teens from the community help as assistants.

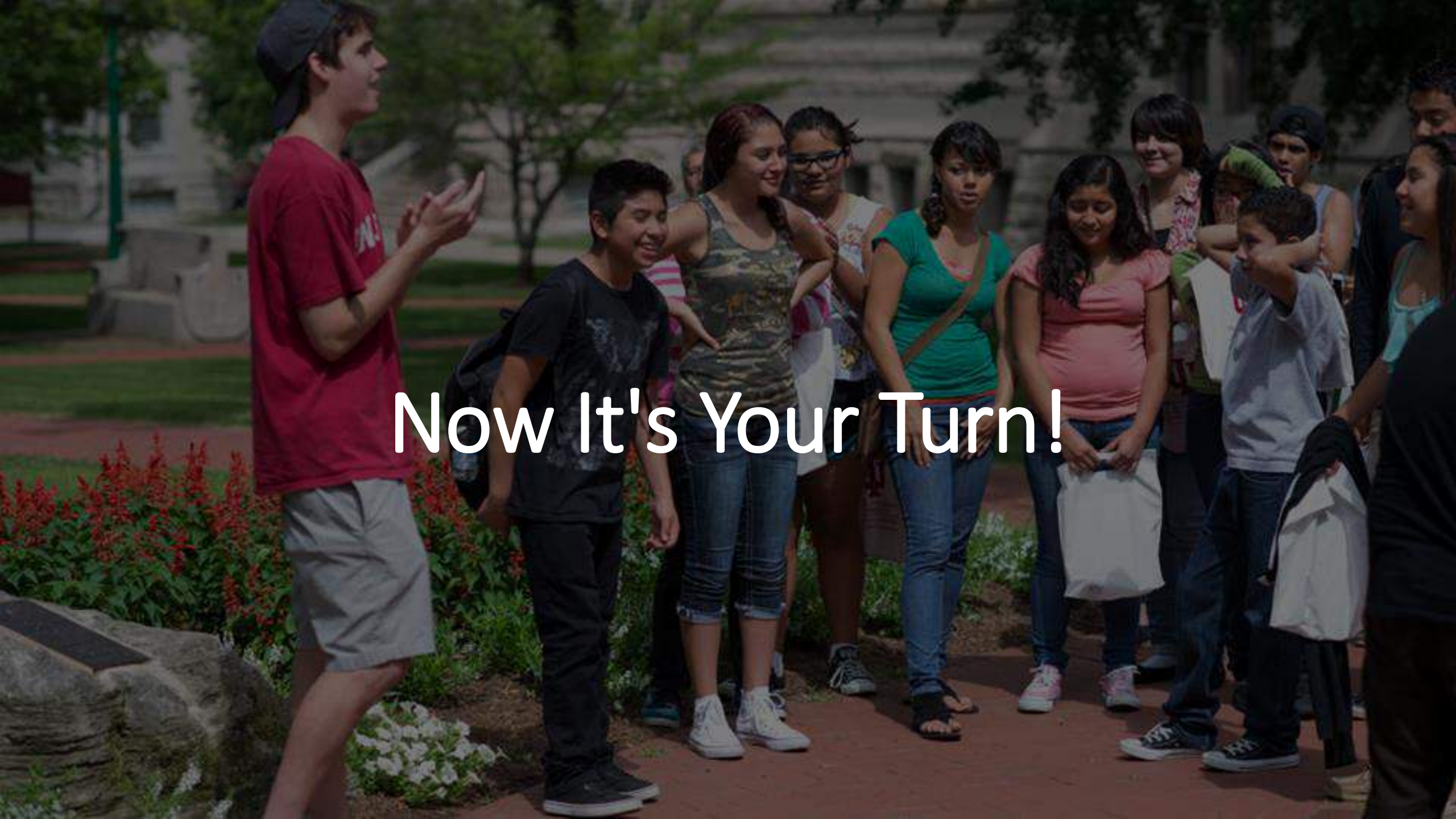


The summer program at this church is an extension of their afterschool program for elementary students. The day starts at 8:30am and wraps up at 4:30pm. During the morning, youth participate in Indy Summer Learning Labs curriculum; in the afternoons they do sports, arts and/or field trips. All kids get lunch and a snack.



High school students are recruited to serve as junior counselors for a daily elementary summer program. They work full-time, support camp logistics, and attend weekly workshops on financial literacy, goal-setting, and interview skills





Now It's Your Turn!

Tips

- Describe your summer program thoroughly.
 - Help reviewers visualize what happens during the program, what your goals are, who you serve, what the flow is.
- Don't write your application "for" a funder.
- Research your budget costs so that they are realistic and reasonable.
- Don't wait until the last minute, especially to request technical assistance.



Common Problems

- **Financial information**, typically project budgets, are incomplete or incoherent.
- **Evaluation plans** are limited, sketchy or absent
- **Staff charged with implementation** lack the skills required to implement the project effectively or the child to staff ratio leads to conditions in which individual engagement becomes rare
- **Knowledge of subject matter and/or best practices** is limited and lacking the sophistication to provide meaningful solutions to the complex problems at hand
- **Budget expenditures** are not justified, accurate or sensible.
- **Lack of co-investment** raises concerns about viability if there are no other sources of funding



More Resources to Help You Prepare

- Handouts
 - 2026 Funder Priorities (including what we're looking for)
 - 2026 Application Preview
 - CBDG Overview from the City of Indianapolis
 - Capital Grants Instructions and Application from LEI
- Videos
 - SYPF Overview
 - How to Prepare Your Budget
- Smart Simple 101 Guide (on the SYPF webpage)



Questions?





[MCCOY](#)

Youth Worker Well-Being Project

A collaborative statewide effort to improve the lives of Indiana's youth workers so they can more effectively work with youth.

Who do we serve?

Indiana youth-serving organizations and youth development professionals employed with community-based agencies that support the educational, social, emotional, and physical development of Indiana youth (ages five to 18).



Scan for more details.

- **Access to no-cost telemedicine and virtual mental health services** for organization's employees and up to 7 household members.
- **Peer Support Groups** to provide opportunities for youth workers to share experiences and support one another.
- **Emerging Leaders of Color Fellowship** to help diversify leadership at youth-serving organizations.
- **Grant opportunities** for youth-serving organizations to apply for funding to pilot and/or implement customized strategies to build community in the workplace and create a culture that values each employee's unique identity – fostering a sense of safety, belonging, empowerment, and well-being for youth workers.
- The **Innovative Benefits Webinar Series** to equip youth-serving organization leaders with knowledge and tools to understand and improve benefit packages and ensure they are competitive in the boarder market and tailored to their unique needs.



INDIANA

Afterschool

NETWORK

[IAN](#)



[Indy Parks](#)



G L E A N E R S

[Gleaners](#)

Thank you!

- Applications due Friday, Oct. 17 at 4pm
- Grant clinic begins at 12 pm
- Adapting to the Current Climate
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- *Lunches available only for people who pre-registered for a workshop*

