

Since the release of this opportunity, we received several questions from potential applicants. While we have responded individually to each question, below we have also compiled answers to some of the most commonly received inquiries in order to promote a consistent sharing of information more broadly among the potential applicant pool.

Eligibility

- For this grant opportunity, disaster area refers specifically to locations within the Hurricane Helene related [Major Disaster Declaration in western North Carolina](#).
- The intent of this opportunity is to focus grant funding in areas of the state (geographically) that are under-resourced or economically distressed. This includes the Major Disaster Declaration for Hurricane Helene, Tier 1 counties, or sub-county level communities with economic conditions similar to Tier 1 located in other parts of the state.
- If an organization is not located in the Major Disaster Declaration in western North Carolina and they are not in a Tier 1 county, they can still apply; they will need to provide data describing the comparable economic conditions to Tier 1 as outlined in the application question.
- Applicants must be physically “located in and serve” the communities they are reflecting in the application.
- The lead applicant must be a Nonprofit organization that is exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and is classified as “not a private foundation” under Section 509(a) OR a fiscally sponsored program – a group or project with a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization acting as a fiscal sponsor. Please note that the fiscal sponsor is considered the grantee and is responsible for all legal aspects of the project including reporting and financial management.

Prior Experience

- The application questions will allow organizations to describe their unique perspective and track record working on behalf of youth mental health in detail, as well as outline the community collaborative of which they are apart and more specifically, what they have done together in the last two years.
- It is expected that within the collaborative, there exists current structures, strategies, and approaches that center and elevate youth leadership reflected by youth’s active involvement in decision-making processes and leadership roles in the design, implementation, and evaluation of programmatic initiatives.

Selection Criteria

- As it relates to a clarification on youth serving and youth centered, please see the definitions below:

Youth serving organization: organization that works directly with, and on behalf of youth, providing programs, services, and supports that address their developmental needs as well as opportunities to cultivate their leadership.

Youth centered: engaging and prioritizing youth in a manner that focuses on their active input, insights, and perspectives in decision-making.

- Applicants do not have to solely serve youth, and their organization's mission does not have to be exclusive to youth. The application must however have a youth-serving/youth-centered community-based organization as the lead applicant.
- In terms of youth served, examples included in the Opportunity Detail were intended to be illustrative - rather than exhaustive - of some of the populations disproportionately impacted by mental health struggles. Organizations focused on serving youth populations not listed in the document, for example, youth with disabilities are welcome and encouraged to apply should they meet the other eligibility criteria.
- As for age range of youth served, there is language in the RFP that speaks to how youth leadership, youth co-design, and youth engagement would need to be central features of the proposed programming. See the text below from the RFP:
 - Have existing ways of elevating youth leadership as reflected in youth's engagement in the design, implementation, and evaluation of programmatic initiatives.
 - Effectively implement ideas and approaches co-designed/led by youth in community to address community conditions impacting youth well-being.
- It is expected that within the collaborative, there exist current structures, strategies, and approaches that center and elevate youth leadership reflected by youth's active involvement in decision-making processes and leadership roles in the design, implementation, and evaluation of programmatic initiatives.