



## POISE FOUNDATION

POISE Foundation's mission is to assist the Black community in achieving self-sustaining practices through strategic leadership, collective giving, grantmaking and advocacy.

## URBAN YOUTH ACTION

In 1966, Mr. Bernard H. Jones founded Urban Youth Action (UYA), a youth support program that provided developmental and social growth opportunities to Black youth in Pittsburgh. After years of incredible, transformative work, the Urban Youth Action program stopped offering formal programming in 2012. However, the work and legacy will continue through the Urban Youth Action Grant and the Urban Youth Action Flex Grant.

## INFORMATION SESSION

Hosted by: POISE Program Officer Shaqui Scott, [sscott@poisefdn.org](mailto:sscott@poisefdn.org)

When: Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at 1 pm

Where: POISE Foundation, Two Gateway Center, First Floor Large Conference Room 603 Stanwix St #1700, Pittsburgh, PA 15222

# URBAN YOUTH ACTION GRANT



## URBAN YOUTH ACTION GRANT OVERVIEW

The Urban Youth Action Grant program supports eligible applicants who provide consistent programming or services in youth education and enrichment. These funds can be used for general operations, program or project support. The organization must primarily work with Black middle or high school students. Letters of Interest (LOIs) will be accepted starting June 5, 2023.

- Depending on fund availability, grant amounts will be up to \$10,000 per applicant;
- Annual grants are not guaranteed.

## TIMELINE

LOI Deadline: July 14

Interview Process: July 15-25

Invitation to Submit Application: July 26

Application Deadline: August 18th

## ELIGIBILITY

- Must be a 501(c)(3) organization or fiscally sponsored initiative;
- Must have a mission or focus on educational or enrichment services for Black middle or high school students;

- Must work primarily with Black middle or high school students, if requesting general operating support
- Must be a project or program that serves Black middle or high school students, if requesting program or project support;
- Must have at least two years of operating history.

## LOI QUESTIONS

- What is your organizational structure?
  - 501(c)(3) organization
  - Fiscally sponsored organization
  - Church/Religious Organization
- Is the organization community or faith-based?
- What is the organization's mission statement?
- What is the organization's annual operating budget?
- What are the target neighborhoods that the organization serves?
- Is the makeup of your Board of Directors at least 50% Black or more?
- Is your executive leader Black?\*
- Is the organization's target audience primarily Black (i.e. 75 percent or higher)?
- How long has your organization been operating?

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- Name
- Title
- Request amount
  - Up to \$10,000
- Budget
- Please provide a brief summary of the project or program. If the request is for general operating support, please provide a summary of the organization's operational plans for the proposed funding year.
- What does success look like for this project or program? What does success look like for this operating year?
- How will success be measured?
- Where will the program activities take place? \*Please include the program location address(es) and/or the intended community/neighborhood site(s)
- Partnerships and Collaborations: Is this a collaborative project or program? If so, who and why?
- Please describe the participant demographics (i.e. age, race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, household income level, gender, sexual orientation, disability, housing status)
- Sustainability and longevity: Briefly share ideas for growing and sustaining the organization, project or program over the next year and beyond. List potential new funding sources and/or strategies in development.

## PROCESS

Before applying for support through the Urban Youth Action Grant program, please thoroughly read the program guidelines. If you have any questions regarding the eligibility or fit of the request, don't hesitate to get in touch with POISE Program Officer Shaqui Scott at [sscott@poisefdn.org](mailto:sscott@poisefdn.org).

1. Please review application guidelines and submit requests in the POISE application portal at <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=pfgrants>. Select the Urban Youth Action Grant program, and apply for support. If you need assistance creating an account, please visit the following link for instructions: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1O2-rkky9iQ1WLx2LKaBYr9LgFoXfaqt/view>
2. All LOI submissions will be processed and checked for eligibility on July 15th, 2023. Eligible applicants will participate in a virtual interview. A POISE program officer will conduct the interviews, and applicants are encouraged to ask key staff who will support the grant request to participate.
3. Upon completion of interviews, selected applicants will receive full application invitations.
4. After all applications have been received, an evaluation will occur by an external review committee of five individuals representing the following groups: organizational leaders working in youth enrichment and education, parents and middle and high school-aged students.
5. Once the evaluations are complete and proper approvals have been obtained, applicants will receive notification regarding the status of their applications. Applicants should expect to receive notice regarding their application around the end of November 2023.





# URBAN YOUTH ACTION FLEX GRANT



The Urban Youth Action Flex Grant supports eligible applicants who provide consistent programming or services in youth education and enrichment.

The Flex Grant is intended to assist Black middle or high school students with expenses related to enrichment activities or their education, career or entrepreneurial development. Eligible use of grant funds includes, but is not limited, to field trips, bus fares, school supplies, technology, out-of-school time activities and traveling expenses.

- Depending upon fund availability, grant amounts will be up to \$1,000 per applicant;
- Only one application per applicant per year can be submitted;
- Flex Grants may be used to support more than one youth;
- Flex Grants will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Annual support is not guaranteed.

## TIMELINE

Rolling deadline with monthly panel reviews

## ELIGIBILITY

- Must be a 501(c)(3) organization or fiscally sponsored initiative;
- Must have a mission or focus on educational or enrichment services for Black middle or high school students;
- Must use Flex Grants to assist Black middle or high school students with expenses related to enrichment activities or their education, career or entrepreneurial development;
- Must be located in the Greater Pittsburgh region, except for fiscal sponsor.

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- Name
- Title
- Request amount
  - Up \$10,000
- Budget
- What is your organizational structure?
- 501(c)(3) organization
- Fiscally sponsored organization

- Church/religious Organization
- Is the organization community- or faith based?
- What is the organization's mission statement?
- What is the organization's annual operating budget?
- What are the target neighborhoods that the organization serves?
- Is the makeup of your Board of Directors at least 50% Black or more?
- Is your executive leader Black?\*
- Is the organization's target audience primarily Black (i.e. 75 percent or higher)?

## APPLICATION PROCESS

Before applying for support through the Urban Youth Action Flex Grant, please read the program guidelines. If you have any questions regarding the eligibility or fit of your request, don't hesitate to get in touch with POISE Foundation Program Officer Shaqui Scott at [sscott@poisefdn.org](mailto:sscott@poisefdn.org)

1. Please review application guidelines and submit requests in the POISE application portal at [www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=pfgrants](http://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=pfgrants). Select the Urban Youth Action Flex Grant, and apply for support. If you need assistance creating an account, please visit the following link for instructions: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1O2-rkkxy9iQ1WLx2LKaBYr9LgFoXfaqt/view>
2. APOISE Program Officer will review and process all applications for eligibility on the second Monday of each month.
3. Once all applications have been reviewed and processed, the program officer will notify applicants of the application status.

## FISCAL SPONSORSHIP

Fiscal sponsorship is a mechanism that allows a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization (the sponsor) to support and protect another group (the sponsored partner). One of the most common uses of fiscal sponsorship is to enable a sponsored partner to apply for grants and solicit tax-deductible contributions. This reduces the partner's costs, conserves resources, reduces duplication of personnel and simplifies organizational functions.

Done well, a fiscal sponsorship acts as a proving ground for a new idea or a new nonprofit while utilizing the administrative resources of the sponsor. Newly formed nonprofits, LLCs, individuals, and groups may apply through fiscal sponsors while awaiting their IRS's 501(c)(3) designation.