EDUCATION M-PACT FUND
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

This document addresses FAQs shared through the original M-Pact Fund RFP in addition to responses to questions received during the application cycles. For additional information, please contact us at education@moodyf.org.

ELIGIBILITY

1. **What kinds of organizations are eligible to apply?**

Organizations seeking to apply for a grant through The Moody Foundation's Education M-Pact Fund must meet the following requirements:

- Must be a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization or a public entity (e.g., a municipality, health department, or university/school).
- Funds may only be granted and used within the state of Texas. Out-of-state entities must be registered with and authorized to do business in Texas through the Texas Secretary of State.
- Provide services directly related to The Moody Foundation's strategic priorities of Early Learning and Postsecondary Success, as further detailed below.
- Commitment to complete all grantee requirements including annual grant reporting and participation in M-Pact grantee network activities during the term of the grant.
- Ability to measure and report grant-related progress on one or more key metrics within the fund's designated strategic priorities.

2. **Can my organization submit more than one application?**

We ask organizations to submit only one application per cycle. If funding is declined, you may choose to resubmit your application for that project/initiative after one year. However, you may submit an application for funding of a separate project or initiative within the next cycle, as long as it is substantially different from the declined request. Please feel free to contact us at education@moodyf.org if you are unsure if you are eligible to reapply and we would be happy to provide additional guidance.

3. **What is an example of a project that may be awarded an M-Pact Fund grant?**

The first cycles of the RFP are designed to be relatively broad, enabling the Foundation to identify and support impactful initiatives across the state. Future iterations may include a more narrowed focus within the Foundation's strategic pillars. While a wide variety of grants will be considered, priority will be given to those focused on the implementation of projects or initiatives. Sample projects within each pillar are included below. This list is for illustrative purposes only and is by no means exhaustive.

Sample projects within Early Learning:

- Replication (in whole or in part) of [Moody Early Childhood Center](moody)'s holistic, community-centered early childhood education model. Review their website for details; please direct all questions and requests for additional information to education@moodyf.org.
- Integration of high-quality early childhood education centers within public school districts.
- Grants addressing cross-sectional priorities (ex – increasing degrees and certifications for Texas-based early childhood educators).

Sample projects within Postsecondary Success:

- Success and completion coaching for first-generation college students.
- Innovative models to increase attainment of value-added degree programs (ex – three-year bachelor's degree, early college high schools, universal access initiatives).
- Support for students with disabilities as they transition into postsecondary life.

4. Do you fund research projects aligned with the strategic priorities/focus areas, or are you more interested in funding program implementation?

Our priority is for the implementation of programs or projects. Limited funding may be available for research projects.

5. Will you consider policy/advocacy projects?

Policy/advocacy projects are not eligible for funding at this time.

6. Are newly formed organizations eligible to apply?

Yes, as long as all other eligibility criteria are met. Newly formed organizations must make a strong case for why their services are needed and avoid duplication of existing offerings in their community.

7. Are nonprofits eligible for funding, or only schools / education institutions?

Any organization that meets the eligibility criteria outlined on the webpage is eligible for funding, including nonprofits. We encourage eligible nonprofits to apply.

8. Are nonprofit childcare centers eligible?

Yes, as long as they meet the eligibility criteria outlined on the webpage. As a reminder, an education focus and reportable outcomes are required; therefore, centers focused solely on childcare are not eligible.

9. Are private/independent schools eligible?

Yes, as long as they meet the eligibility criteria outlined on the webpage.

10. If you are a part of a collaboration(s) can you apply separately and through collaborations?

With limited funding available, we will be aiming to diversify our grantee recipients. We recommend applying through only one pathway (either individually or as a collaboration).

11. Our organization operates in multiple Texas cites. Can we apply as a state entity or should we focus on a single region?

Applying at the state level would most likely strengthen your application. Refer to the Selection Process section of the webinar for more details.

12. What if you are applying as a network of Texas affiliates for a national organization, all with separate 501c3s?

If you are applying on behalf of multiple entities, you must designate a single entity as the application lead and detail other participants in the application form. The lead will be the main contact for the application and be responsible for activities related to grant contracts, reports, funding, etc.

13. Are faith-based entities eligible?

Yes, as long as they meet the eligibility criteria outlined on the webpage.

14. Can a certificate from a local community college be considered as postsecondary education?

Yes. For further requirements, please reference the specific criteria of the postsecondary success pillar as outlined on the website.

15. If we are declined in one cycle, when can we re-apply for the following cycle?

If funding is declined, you may choose to resubmit your application for that project/initiative after one year. However, you may submit an application for funding of a separate project or initiative within the next cycle, as long as it is substantially different from the declined request.

16. Can we apply to the M-Pact Fund and the Foundation's general application process at the same time?

No, we ask that only one request per organization be under review by the Foundation at any given time.

17. Can the grant be used to cover more than one area or program within our organization?

Yes, under limited circumstances when the programs are strongly related. Application reviews will be conducted based on the entirety of the request, with approvals or declines issued for the application as a whole rather than specific projects within it.

18. If a multiyear grant is awarded, can the institution submit another project for consideration next year while the approved project is being paid out?

With limited funding available, we will be aiming to diversify our grantee recipients. As of now, you are able to apply again, but the likelihood of funding will be reduced if you have an active grant from The Moody Foundation.

19. Do you prefer existing projects or new/innovative initiatives?

Both are eligible. We anticipate funding a mix of innovative and established initiatives.

20. If we do not have audited financials, will we be disqualified?

If you do not have an audit, there is an option to submit an explanatory letter. If you do have a completed audit(s), you must submit those with your application.

STRATEGIC PILLARS AND FOCUS AREAS

21. My organization/project does not fit within the M-Pact Fund's strategic pillars. Can I still apply?

Applicants must align with the M-Pact Fund's strategic pillars to be eligible for funding. Education initiatives outside of these strategic pillars may apply through the Foundation's general application process.

22. My organization/project does not fit within the M-Pact Fund's supporting focus areas. Can I still apply?

Yes, the supporting focus areas are guidelines and not requirements. Organizations that do not fall within these focus areas may still apply if they meet all M-Pact Fund eligibility criteria, including alignment with the strategic pillars of Early Learning and Postsecondary Success.

23. My organization/project does fit within the M-Pact Fund's strategic pillars. Can I choose to apply through the Foundation's general grants process instead?

All applicants whose work aligns with the M-Pact Fund's strategic pillars should apply through the open RFP as we believe that process will allow us to best serve and support the work of our grantees. However, if you would like to discuss extenuating circumstances or are unsure if your work aligns, please contact education@moodyf.org and we would be happy to provide additional guidance.

24. Are you able to address both pillars in one request?

Yes, addressing more strategic pillars and/or focus areas may strengthen your application. However, note that you must be able to report on outcomes as a result of your work in order for it to qualify as aligning with a particular pillar or focus area.

25. Can the Early learning application include Early Literacy and Math or just Early Literacy?

The Fund's priority for the K-3 space is Early Literacy. Including other program components will not disqualify you; however, primary consideration will be given to the Fund's strategic pillars and focus areas.

26. Can you speak to the age range for the postsecondary success focus?

The postsecondary success strategic pillar encompasses grades K-12 and postsecondary activities. Please see the description of this pillar on the webpage for additional details.

27. As the M-Pact fund grows, do you foresee any of the focus area shifting or expanding?

While this is a possibility, we anticipate maintaining the current strategic pillars and focus areas for the foreseeable future.

FINANCIALS

28. How much funding should we request?

The Education M-Pact Fund will provide approximately $20 million in grants annually to eligible organizations across the state of Texas. While there are no specific limits on request amounts, we encourage applicants to make requests totaling no more than 20% of the organization's annual operating budget. This is a general guideline; all requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

29. Can my organization receive a multi-year grant?

Yes, we expect approximately half of M-Pact grantees to receive two- or three-year grants, with the remaining grantees receiving one-year grants. Each grantee may apply again once the term of the grant is complete. Please note that renewed funding is not guaranteed for previously approved grantees. Plans for sustainability of ongoing projects/initiatives once M-Pact grant funding expires will be considered in the application review process.

30. How will grants be funded?

The process for M-Pact Fund grant payments will mirror the Foundation's standard grant payment process with funding initiated shortly after the trustee meeting in which the grants are approved. One-year grants will be fully funded with the initial grant payment. Subsequent payments for multi-year grants will be awarded in annual installments once reporting and related requirements have been met.

31. What type of funding will be provided and are overhead/indirect expenses covered?

The M-Pact Fund is open to grants within a variety of funding types including projects, operations, and capital funding. Priority will be given to the implementation of programs and projects. There is no specific cap on overhead funding; each applicant's budget will be reviewed individually within the context of what is reasonable for the organization and/or proposed project.

Note: Colleges and universities are asked to limit their indirect cost rate to no more than 15%.

32. We are requesting operating funds. Can the project and organization budgets we submit be the same?

Yes, if all activities of your organization align with the M-Pact Fund's eligibility criteria including at least one strategic pillar, you may apply for general operating funds. In that case, your project and organization budgets will be the same.

33. If we do not have audited financials, will we be disqualified?

If you do not have an audit, there is an option to submit an explanatory letter. If you do have a completed audit(s), you must submit those with your application.

34. Budgets two to three years out won't yet be board approved. Can these numbers change?

Yes. We understand that future year budgets will be approximate. You may add a note on the budget with the anticipated approval date.

35. Would third party consultants or evaluators be able to be covered with the funding?

Yes.

36. If we ask for a certain amount, will you award less?

Request amounts are a guidepost for our consideration. Trustees may approve grants with award amounts that are lower than request amounts shared in the proposal. If you have specific constraints or minimum funding levels needed to pursue the proposed scope of work, please detail that in the application (you may use the Grant Duration Constraints" field).

37. Should travel costs to the grantee convening and participation in the grantee network be included in the proposal budget submitted?

No, these will be assessed and paid out separately after grant contracts are completed. You should not include grantee convening or network costs in your budget.

38. Does the foundation prefer projects that are already partially funded? Are you open to being the sole funder for a project?

Support from other funders may be a plus. The main consideration will be your plan for sustainability of the project if/when funds from the Moody Foundation would expire.

39. When listing funding sources for the project, may we include donations that have been awarded as operating expenses but that we are applying to cover part of the project's costs?

Yes, please just indicate that it is a partial grant allocation within the budget line item.

APPLICATION PROCESS

40. Where can I find the application form?

A link to the application portal will be posted on this webpage on the date each application cycle opens.

41. What changes were made between Cycles 1 and 2?

Cycle 2 includes minor changes to the application form. These are detailed in the Cycle 2 webinar. At a high level, changes include:

- Separate fields for Amount Requested by year.
- Removal of previously required year 2 and 3 line-item operating budgets (total projected amounts are still required).

- Provision of a multi-year project budget template (optional use).
- Clarification of attachment requirements.
- All attachments must be uploaded in PDF form.

42. What are the reporting requirements?

Grantees will be asked to submit one interim and one final report annually during the term of their grant. Interim reports will consist of a narrative update. Annual reports will include a narrative section, outcomes related to the grantee's stated goals and objectives, and a budget to actuals financial update. Report templates outlining specific requirements will be furnished to grantees in advance of each report deadline.

43. How should we plan to measure our selected key metric(s)?

The application will provide a space for each applicant to identify the key metric(s) they will measure in relation to their grant. The list of available key metrics will be finalized and released when each application is posted. Applicants will also be asked to describe their evaluation process. Applicants are strongly encouraged to include use of an externally validated tool for measuring results within the selected key metric(s). For example, externally-validated tools for an Early Learning grantee would include but not be limited to those approved by the Texas Education Agency for measuring student progress in preschool (full list here). Self-evident metrics such as your school's graduation rates do not require use of an external tool.

44. If the project measures more than one metric, are we still to choose only one in this section?

We encourage applicants to choose multiple metrics when able. Demonstration of a robust set of outcomes and accompanying evaluation process will be a key factor in application reviews.

45. What are the required M-Pact grantee network activities?

The Education M-Pact Fund provides benefits beyond grant funding to deepen the results of this work. These benefits will include at least one annual convening of representatives from each current M-Pact grantee organization. The full cost of the convening, including travel and related expenses for at least one grantee representative will be covered by the Foundation. The Foundation anticipates an initial convening in March 2025 at the South by Southwest Education Conference in Austin, Texas. Additional opportunities for convening and collaboration may be provided throughout the term of the grant. Specific details will be shared with grantees well in advance. The Foundation understands that unavoidable conflicts may arise and asks that grantees participate in these activities to the best of their ability.

46. How does an open RFP differ from The Moody Foundation's general grants process?

The Moody Foundation's general grants process enables applicants to propose any project that fits within the Foundation's mission and vision. The open RFP is designed to provide more specific parameters for the type of applicants that are eligible for grants through the dedicated $20 million annual M-Pact Fund, and to also detail the trustees' giving priorities within the fund. In addition, the open RFP has specific benefits and requirements related to its timeline, reports, and other grantee activities. Overall, the open RFP is designed to best serve and support grantees within the M-Pact Fund's strategic pillars.

47. What is the difference between each RFP cycle?

The only difference between Cycles 1 and 2 is the timeline along with minor updates to the application form. Future funding cycles may include more narrow eligibility criteria.

48. Can you speak to the letters of support? Who should those come from?

There are no specific requirements for who submits a letter of support. Our purpose in reviewing these letters is to better understand your organization's reputation and impact. Sample authors could include leaders of school districts with which you work, government officials who support your work, and customers/participants who have benefitted from your services, among others.

49. May we reuse letters of recommendation from previous cycles or other applications (with permission of the writer)?

Yes, if the context of the letter applies to the request you are submitting you may reuse it with permission of the writer.