FY26 Youth Social Connections RFP

bi3

Letter of Intent Description

bi3

The bi3 Fund is seeking grantee partners to improve youth social connection and belonging by collaborating with youth, ages 12-24, to create or reimagine safe and welcoming community, or third, spaces and design embedded supports, activities and resources. Projects must aim to build connections between youth and with caring adults. Initiatives should prioritize populations most impacted by health disparities including Black and Brown youth, youth involved in systems of care, LGBTQ+ youth, and/or youth in low-income communities. These initiatives must:

- Center youth leadership, priorities and decision-making to drive approaches, operations and strategies to ensure spaces, supports, activities and resources effectively meet youth needs
- Equip adults to promote safety, well-being and resilience for youth

bi3 anticipates awarding up to $5 million in flexible funding to support and respond to **youth-led** decision-making, goals and strategies.

PLEASE NOTE:

Letters of Intent (LOI) and proposals will be reviewed by a panel of youth who will determine their alignment with the evaluation criteria. **We encourage applicants to write their LOIs for this audience.** Please be sure you are using plain, concise language and descriptions for your proposed work.

We appreciate the time it takes for you to complete this application. We encourage you to be concise in your responses. Applicants are not expected to maximize the character limits. If, however, the character limits become a challenge to sharing your idea, please contact Grants Manager, Marian Black, at marian_black@trihealth.com

The deadline for the LOI is **December 3, 2025 at 11:59 p.m**. Please note there is no technical support available after 5pm.

Contact Information and Eligibility

Organization Name:*
Character Limit: 250

Organization Employee Identification Number (EIN)
Please provide the organization's EIN. If this project is fiscally sponsored, please provide the information below.

Character Limit: 100

Organization Address:*
Please provide the street, city, state and zip code.

Character Limit: 250

Organization Website:
Character Limit: 100

Fiscal Agent Name
If using a fiscal agent, please provide the fiscal agent organization's name.

Character Limit: 250

Fiscal Agent EIN
If using a fiscal agent, please provide the EIN of the fiscal agent.

Character Limit: 250

Eligibility - 501(c)(3) status*
Is the applying organization a 501(c)(3) organization (or utilizing a 501(c)(3) organization as a fiscal agent) that is located in and/or working in bi3's focus areas (Butler, Clermont, Hamilton, or Warren, OH)?

Choices
Yes
No

Eligibility - Youth Serving Organization*
Is the applying organization a youth serving organization with experience serving Black and Brown youth, youth involved in systems of care, LGBTQ+ youth, and/or youth in low-income communities?

Choices
Yes
No

Please note: if the answer is no to either of these questions, the organization is not eligible for this Request for Proposals (RFP).

Lead Project Manager's Name:*
Character Limit: 250

Lead Project Manager's Contact Information:*
Please include title, phone number and email address.

Character Limit: 2000

Letter of Intent

Project Title:*
Character Limit: 100

Is this a Planning or Implementation grant?*
Note:

- o **Planning grants** awarded under this RFP may be paid over a period of 12-18 months and are expected to range from $100,000-$250,000 in total, inclusive of indirect costs. These grants will support the design of a youth engagement strategy and the development of an implementation plan for future work.

- o **Implementation grants** awarded under this RFP may be paid over a period of two to three years and are expected to range from $750,000-$1,500,000 in total, inclusive of indirect costs. These grants will support youth engagement, project design and the implementation of youth-led strategies.

Please see Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for guidance as to which type of grant may be right for you at this time. Organizational self-assessments are also available in that FAQs section for organizations to reflect on where they are in their youth engagement experience and readiness for a co-designed implementation grant.

Choices
Planning (12-18 months): design youth engagement strategy and develop implementation plan
Implementation (2-3 years): engage youth, design project, and implement youth-led strategies

Requested Grant Amount from bi3:*
Please enter the total requested grant amount.

Character Limit: 20

Requested Time Period of the Grant*
Please describe the expected start and end date (month and year) of this grant request.

Character Limit: 250

Geography of Impact*

Please select the geographies the proposal aims to have an impact in (select all that apply):

Choices

Butler County, OH
Clermont County, OH
Hamilton County, OH
Warren County, OH

Please note: If your organization is not already doing work and/or providing services in one of the above geographies, you are not eligible for this RFP.

Population(s) of Focus Addressed*

Please select the population(s) the proposal aims **to center** in this work (select all that apply):

Choices

Black and Brown youth
Youth involved in systems of care
LGBTQ+ youth
Youth in low-income communities
None of the above

Please note: if your organization is not planning to center at least one of these populations, you are not eligible for this RFP. However, there is no expectation that more than one of these populations is selected. Please only select the population(s) that the project work is intentionally centering (and clearly articulate how that population is being centered in your answers below).

Opportunity or Problem:*

The bi3 Fund envisions a day when all people in Greater Cincinnati have a fair and just opportunity to achieve their best health. To advance this vision, bi3 has prioritized fostering social connections for youth, particularly for those experiencing the greatest disparities in mental wellbeing. Please see the background section of the RFP for more information on how bi3 currently understands some of the barriers and opportunities to improve youth social connection and mental wellbeing.

Please provide a brief description of the opportunity or barriers to improve youth social connection and belonging (beyond the Background provided in the RFP) that **your proposed work seeks to address**. Please share any insights your organization has based on its experience, data, and/or feedback from youth and the broader community.

Character Limit: 2000

Description of Project*

Please briefly describe: a) the project, b) any key partners and c) how the project aims to center youth, and specifically the population(s) of focus, in design and decision making.

Character Limit: 4000

Key Goals:*

Please describe the key goals the project aims to achieve and their potential impact on strengthening youth social connection and belonging and addressing health disparities. Please include an initial estimate of the number of youth the project aims to engage and/or serve through the project.

Character Limit: 2000

Organizational Experience - Youth Engagement*

Please describe the organization's experience engaging with youth and particularly the population(s) of focus for the proposed project. Please include how the organization thinks about, and if it has any experience in, engaging youth in decision making.

Character Limit: 2500

Organizational Approach to Health Equity*

How does your organization apply a health equity lens to its work?

bi3 defines a health equity lens as an approach that explicitly considers race, ethnicity, and the social drivers of health when analyzing issues, designing solutions, and defining success. This lens helps organizations tailor services or approaches to different groups of people in specific, sensitive ways to address the issues, practices and conditions that contribute to health disparities.

Character Limit: 2000

Organization Background

bi3's vision is that all people in Greater Cincinnati have a fair and just opportunity to achieve their best health. Local, state, and national data show that certain groups face greater barriers in making that vision a reality.

This information will not be used for funding decisions but will inform bi3's understanding of the makeup of our applicant pools and funded organizations and the extent to which these are reflective of the demographics of our region.

bi3 does not unlawfully discriminate internally (in its administrative and program operations) or externally (in provision of services and grants) on the basis of race, political orientation, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, national origin, ethnicity, ancestry, marital status, veteran status, or mental or physical disability or any other status prohibited by applicable law.

Help us better understand your organization!

Organization Size - Staff*

How many full-time employees does your organization have?

Choices

0 (volunteer or part-time only)
1-9
10-24
25-49
50-99
100-249
250-499
500+
Prefer not to say

Organization Size - Budget*

What size is your current organizational annual budget?

Choices

Less than $250,000
$250,000 - $499,999
$500,000 - $999,999
$1Million - $4.99Million
$5Million - $9.99Million
$10Million or above
Prefer not to say

Organizational Leadership - Executive Director/President/CEO*

Does your Executive Director/President/CEO identify as belonging to or having lived experience as any of the following groups? (select all that apply)

Choices

Active Service Members and/or Veterans
Black, Indigenous, and People of Color
Immigrants and new Americans
Individuals living with disabilities
Individuals with lower levels of education and/or income
Individuals without health insurance
LGBTQ+
Rural communities
Youth involved in systems of care
Unsure
None of the above
Prefer not to say

Organizational Leadership - C-Suite

Does **more than 50% of your C-suite** identify as belonging to or having lived experience as any of the following groups? (select all that apply)
*To clarify, checking a box below indicates that **more than 50%** of your organization's C-suite identify as belonging to or having lived experience as that selected group.*

Choices

Active Service Members and/or Veterans

Black, Indigenous, and People of Color

Immigrants and new Americans

Individuals living with disabilities

Individuals with lower levels of education and/or income

Individuals without health insurance

LGBTQ+

Rural communities

Youth involved in systems of care

Unsure

None of the above

Prefer not to say

Organizational Leadership - Board*

Does **more than 50% of the board** identify as belonging to or having lived experience as any of the following groups? (select all that apply)

*To clarify, checking a box below indicates that **more than 50%** of your organization's board members identify as belonging to or having lived experience as that selected group.*

Choices

Active Service Members and/or Veterans

Black, Indigenous, and People of Color

Immigrants and new Americans

Individuals living with disabilities

Individuals with lower levels of education and/or income

Individuals without health insurance

LGBTQ+

Rural communities

Youth involved in systems of care

None of the above

Prefer not to say

Unsure

Organizational Representation - Staff*

Does **more than 50% of your staff** identify as belonging to or having lived experience as any of the following groups? (select all that apply)

*To clarify, checking a box below indicates that **more than 50%** of your organization's staff identify as belonging to or having lived experience as that selected group.*

Choices

Active Service Members and/or Veterans

Black, Indigenous, and People of Color

Immigrants and new Americans

Individuals living with disabilities

Individuals with lower levels of education and/or income

Individuals without health insurance

LGBTQ+

Rural communities
Youth involved in systems of care
None of the above
Prefer not to say
Unsure

Organizational Representation - Population Served*

Did **more than 50% of the people you served in the past year** identify as belonging to or having lived experience as any of the following groups? (select all that apply)
*To clarify, checking a box below indicates that **more than 50%** of the people you served identify as belonging to or having lived experience as that selected group.*

Choices
Active Service Members and/or Veterans
Black, Indigenous, and People of Color
Immigrants and new Americans
Individuals living with disabilities
Individuals with lower levels of education and/or income
Individuals without health insurance
LGBTQ+
Rural communities
Youth involved in systems of care
None of the above
Prefer not to say
Unsure

Organizational characteristics - Additional Information

We recognize that the populations listed above do not encompass the full range of potential community representation. Please include any additional comments in terms of domains of organizational leadership representation, especially in terms of any current youth representation, that you feel are important for us to understand.

Character Limit: 10000

What's Next?

Thank you for taking the time to share your project ideas.

Letter of Intent Information:
The deadline to submit the Letter of Intent is **December 3, 2025, by 11:59pm**. Please note there is no technical support available after 5pm. Applicants will receive a response by end of day January 30, 2026, indicating if they have been invited to submit a detailed proposal.

Detailed Proposal Information:
Selected applicants from the LOI stage of the process will be invited to submit a Detailed Proposal. An invitation to submit a detailed proposal does not guarantee funding. Proposals will

be submitted via bi3's online grants management system by **March 12, 2026, by 11:59pm.** Please note there is no technical support available after 5pm. bi3 will inform awardees by mid-June 2026**.**

Feedback

We aim for the LOI to be an easy process and we are always looking to improve. Please share any feedback about this application process. This question is optional and will not be considered in the review of your proposal.

Character Limit: 2500

Number of Hours to Complete LOI:

For our reference, please estimate the number of hours to complete this LOI:

Character Limit: 250