



The 2025 Innovation Fund ***Applicant FAQs***

Thank you for your interest in The Tow Foundation's 2025 Innovation Fund. We hope this *Applicant FAQs* document answers questions you may have regarding this funding opportunity. If you require any additional information, please feel free to contact us at innovationfund@towfoundation.org.

About The Tow Foundation

Established in 1988 by Leonard and Claire Tow, The Tow Foundation is a family-led philanthropic organization committed to promoting wellness and expanding access to opportunities for individuals and communities to thrive. The Foundation supports visionary leaders and nonprofit organizations working to achieve solutions to persistent inequities, empowering individuals to contribute meaningfully to their communities. You are invited to learn more about The Tow Foundation at: <https://www.towfoundation.org/>.

The 2025 Innovation Fund is a grant opportunity for nonprofit organizations innovatively expanding access to the care and support that youth need to thrive. The Foundation's Innovation Fund intends to make grants, ranging from \$300,000 to \$1 million over three years, to up to 10 organizations that are improving youth mental health and well-being and serving young people between the ages of 0-25, as well as their families.

Should our organization apply?

The Innovation Fund is excited to receive proposals from nonprofit organizations that are acting boldly to expand access to supports that enhance youth mental health and well-being. We take a broad and inclusive approach when imagining the kinds of care and support that may have a positive impact.

That said, eligible organizations must meet the following threshold criteria:

- Be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit or have a 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor.
- Operate in one or more of the following states: California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New York, or Pennsylvania.
- Demonstrate a track record of working to advance youth mental health and well-being and are exploring innovative solutions that may not yet have proof of concept but show potential for transformative impact.
- Support communities or populations facing barriers to accessing support for mental health and well-being.

When is the application deadline?

The first-round application should be submitted by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on May 23, 2025, to be considered for funding.

How much funding can we apply for?

The 2025 Innovation Fund will award grants ranging from \$300,000 to \$1 million, distributed over a three-year period. Your organization may apply for any amount within this range. If your organization does not want these funds evenly distributed over the three-year period, there will be an opportunity to discuss this preference with Foundation representatives later in the selection process.

How does this grant opportunity define an “innovative” approach?

There is no strict definition of innovation for this initiative. It can mean scaling proven efforts, applying existing strategies to new populations or locations, or experimenting with a novel approach. We aim to encourage creative thinking rather than limit it with a fixed definition.

The eligibility criteria states that an organization must operate in at least one of six states. Must our organization be based in one of these states to be eligible?

No. An organization may be based in any U.S. state or territory, but must have active, relevant programming or presence in one of the six states listed to be eligible: California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New York, or Pennsylvania.

Are current grantee partners of The Tow Foundation eligible to apply to the 2025 Innovation Fund?

Yes. All current and former grantee partners of The Tow Foundation are eligible to apply. Applying for a grant through the Innovation Fund will not impact the Foundation's other grant decisions.

Can partnerships or collaborations apply for grant funding through the 2025 Innovation Fund?

Yes, we encourage collaborative applications. We ask, however, that only one organization be listed as the primary applicant in an application.

Are previous awardees of the Innovation Fund eligible to apply this year?

Yes. Previous awardees of the Innovation Fund are eligible to apply for new funding through the 2025 Innovation Fund.

What information do we need to provide in the first-round application?

The 2025 Innovation Fund's first-round application is designed to be purposefully brief in hopes of saving the time of busy nonprofit staff. It contains 13 questions, which are listed below for convenience.

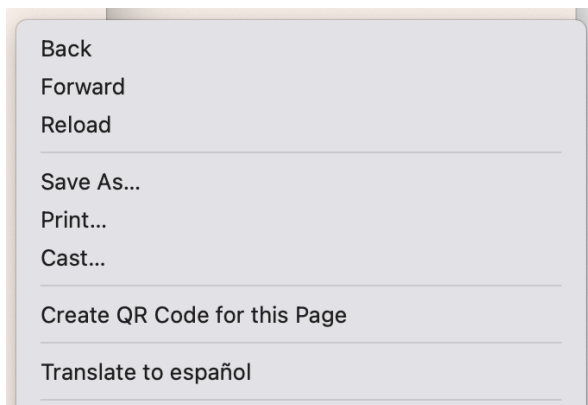
- What is the name of your organization? *Please share the name of your fiscal sponsor, too, if applicable.*
- Please share your organization's website.
- What is your organization's Employer Identification Number (EIN)?
- Who is the primary contact for this application?
- Please share this contact's title or role.
- Please share this contact's email address.

- Please share this contact's phone number.
- Please share your organization's mailing address.
- In which of the following states does your organization operate? *(You may select more than one).*
- Please tell us about your work to expand access to mental health care and support for youth. *As part of your response, please describe the specific barriers youth and their families face in accessing support for mental health and well-being that your work is addressing, as well as the specific communities or populations served by your work.*
- Now, please summarize your work in just one sentence.
- What makes your organization's strategy innovative, and how does it build on or diverge from other efforts in the field? If successful, how might your work influence systems-level change? *Please respond in such a way that both a smart generalist and a subject matter expert could contextualize your answer.*
- Why is your organization uniquely qualified to lead this work?

Your first-round application should be submitted via [this Google Form](#).

Can we view the application in a language other than English?

Yes. You may view most of the application in the language of your choice by opening the translation application in Google Chrome. Right-click on any blank space on the application and click on the "translate" option.



Must we submit our application via Google Form?

To ensure consistency in submissions and to facilitate an efficient and fair review process, The Tow Foundation prefers to accept written applications submitted through [this Google Form](#).

If your organization would like to request a special accommodation, please contact us at innovationfund@towfoundation.org.

What If we can't complete the entire application at once?

No worries! Your progress will automatically be saved as a draft for 30 days. Your previously completed information will appear in the application the next time that you open the Google Form.

Can we review our application after we submit?

Yes. If you would like to see or save a copy of your submitted application, click on the “send me a copy of my responses” option at the bottom of the final screen.

Can we make changes to our application after we submit?

If necessary, you may edit your application after it has been submitted up until the application deadline of 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on May 23, 2025. You can find the link to edit your submission in two places:

- Immediately after submitting your application, you will see a link to edit your response. You can save this link in case you wish to make edits later.
- If you opted in to receive a copy of your application, the email you received with your full application will include a link to edit the application.

How will my application be reviewed?

The Tow Foundation has engaged a panel of external Community Advisors who are helping the Foundation score all eligible applications according to the following criteria:

- Impact: Will this work meaningfully expand access to positive youth mental health and well-being? Does it have potential to drive systems-level change?
- Innovation: Based on your experience, how innovative is this work?
- Feasibility: How confident are you that this organization can successfully implement the work proposed?
- Overall Enthusiasm: Reflecting on this application as a whole, how enthusiastic are you about this application advancing in the selection process?

The 50 highest-scoring first-round applicants will be invited to submit a second-round application requesting additional information. All first-round applicants will receive a status update from The Tow Foundation by June 30, 2025.