



WASHINGTON  
**YOUTH & FAMILIES FUND**

2022 Request for Proposals for  
Projects Serving Youth & Young Adults  
**APPLICATION**

## Projects Serving Youth & Young Adults—Application Cover Sheet

1. <b>AGENCY NAME:</b> Oasis Youth Center												
2. <b>TITLE OF PROPOSED PROJECT:</b> GSD Expansion and Outreach Program												
3. <b>GEOGRAPHIC AREA SERVED</b> <i>(Include counties to be served)</i> : Pierce County												
4. <b>YOUTH POPULATION SERVED</b> <i>(Check all that apply)</i> : <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Youth, ages 12-17 years old. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Young adult, ages 18-24 years old.												
5. <b>DATA &amp; CE ACCESS</b> <i>(Check all that apply; these are not disqualifiers, but funded orgs will eventually need HMIS access)</i> : <input type="checkbox"/> Current HMIS access. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Currently involved with Coordinated Entry in your community.												
6. <b>PROPOSED USE OF WYFF FUNDS</b> <i>(Summarize in 2 or 3 sentences how the WYFF funds would be used)</i> : Funds will be used to increase outreach to all Pierce County schools to increase awareness of Oasis Youth Center and services for GSD students, Check-ins will be provided 5 nights a week to increase the safety and mental health of GSD youths, increase in frequency of the QTIYOC retreat from once every other year to yearly.												
7. <b>TOTAL WYFF BUDGET:</b> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">Personnel</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 48,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Flexible Funds</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ xx.xx</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Costs</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 3,200.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Indirect Costs</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 3,800.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sub-contracted Costs, if applicable</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ xx.xx</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total Washington Youth &amp; Families Fund Request</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>\$ 55,000.00</b></td> </tr> </table>	Personnel	\$ 48,000.00	Flexible Funds	\$ xx.xx	Other Costs	\$ 3,200.00	Indirect Costs	\$ 3,800.00	Sub-contracted Costs, if applicable	\$ xx.xx	<b>Total Washington Youth &amp; Families Fund Request</b>	<b>\$ 55,000.00</b>
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8. <b>CONTACT INFORMATION FOR PROJECT APPLICANT:</b> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Name:</td> <td>Melissa Voltz</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Title:</td> <td>Project Manager</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mailing Address:</td> <td>2215 Pacific Ave</td> </tr> <tr> <td>City/State/Zip Code:</td> <td>Tacoma, WA 98402</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Telephone Number:</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E-mail Address:</td> <td>mvoltz@asu.edu</td> </tr> </table>	Name:	Melissa Voltz	Title:	Project Manager	Mailing Address:	2215 Pacific Ave	City/State/Zip Code:	Tacoma, WA 98402	Telephone Number:	N/A	E-mail Address:	mvoltz@asu.edu
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E-mail Address:	mvoltz@asu.edu											
9. <b>ELIGIBLE APPLICANT:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This application represents a nonprofit community or community-based organization; regional/statewide nonprofit housing assistance organization; federally recognized tribe; local housing authority; or public development authority.												

<b>10. CULTURALLY-SPECIFIC AND/OR BIPOC-LED AND -SERVING ORGANIZATION:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> This application represents a culturally-specific and/or BIPOC-led and -serving organization.	
<b>11. AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT (REQUIRED):</b>  Name: Melissa Voltz  Signature: <u>          Melisa Voltz          </u>	Title: Project Manager  Date: 09/August/2022

*Percentages indicate weighting of categories for review.*

## Application Narrative (90%)

**Please respond to the questions below. Use 12-point font and keep responses to a maximum of 10 pages.**

### 1) Program Design Description (70%)

- a) Gender and Sexually Diverse (GSD) youths have different life experiences and circumstances to overcome and endure compared to non-GSD youths. GSD youths experience higher rates of self-harm, suicide attempts, and suicide completion than non-GSD youths and GSD adults (Ream, 2019). These heightened rates site peer/family rejections and bullying as the main sources of duress that lead to self-harm and suicidal ideation. According to a Trevor’s Project 2022 National Survey, 50% of GSD teens (13-17) seriously contemplated suicide within the previous year, and 18% of GSD teens attempted suicide. This rate is twice as high as US teens identifying as cisgender and/or straight (Monroe, 2022). GSD students are more likely to experience mental health issues, including depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder due to experiencing violence in relation to their GSD status (Gnan, 2019).

There are growing tensions and disapproval of the GSD community in the United States as seen through anti-gay legislation, such as the growing popularity and adoption of the “Don’t Say Gay” bill across 20 states. Concerns continue to grow for the GSD community with the reversal of Roe v. Wade and the suggestion that Obergefell v. Hodges (the Supreme Court ruling that legalized gay marriage) be reconsidered. With GSD youth at an elevated risk for self-harm, the continued disapproval of the GSD community within society can spark an even higher rate of mental health issues and self-harm.

Oasis Youth Center is a Tacoma (Pierce County), WA, nonprofit organization. Oasis provides a safe space for GSD youths (13-24) to feel welcome and accepted. Oasis Youth Center was founded in 1985 by community members concerned for GSD youths in the Pierce County community. The organization focuses on providing a healthy support system for GSD youth while teaching helpful coping skills. All staff members and volunteers at Oasis are thoroughly vetted and trained to deal with communications, implement healthy coping mechanisms, and allow adolescents to speak freely and be genuine.

Historically Oasis has provided a weekly check-in, where all are welcome to come, discuss, listen, or feel seen while they navigate personal and social difficulties that occur that could be but are not limited to the GSD experience. Oasis also provides a QTIYOC Retreat (Semi-Annual, provided every other year), a three-day, two-night retreat for queer, trans, and intersex youth of color. This retreat provides leadership skills through a safe space to connect, learn, and thrive.

While tensions continue to grow nationally, Oasis intends to continue providing a safe space for GSD youths and increasing the volume and availability of services for the GSD youth community. Although educating the masses could decrease discrimination, harassment, and violence towards GSD members, Oasis plans take the most efficient route to aiding GSD youths by educating them on healthy coping mechanisms and communication skills. Oasis Youth Center plans to decrease the completed suicide rates by 10% in GSD youths of Pierce County by January 1, 2025.

- i) Oasis Youth Center will provide two programs to lower the Pierce County GSD youth suicide rate strategically. The first program is already in practice; however, Oasis will increase the volume of Check-In meetings for GSD youths. Currently, Check-ins are offered once a week. However, this will be increased to six nights a week to ensure that all youths that need a platform or opportunity to feel seen and heard can accomplish that need. The second program will be a yearly leadership retreat for QTIYOC (queer, transgender, and intersex youths of color). This retreat will offer leadership skill training, including communication, de-escalation, problem-solving, and relationship-building.
  - ii) Staff capacity will be organized by designating 85% of staff as volunteers and the remaining 15% as payrolled employees. All staff must undergo federal and state background checks and train specifically to work with the youth and the GSD community.
  - iii) All youths enrolled or participating in Oasis programs are LGBTQ2+ (Oasis uses the acronym GSD to include all genders, identities, and sexualities within the spectrum). The outreach for these youths will begin by implementing a marketing campaign to ensure all school districts in Pierce County are providing students with the information and location of Oasis Youth Center. Oasis will also be implementing a hard push to districts in historically black neighborhoods to ensure that GSD youths of color know a safe space and support network. The marketing campaign will include a volunteer speaking to students in each school district to allow students to interact with a member of Oasis and become acclimated with the idea of spending time at Oasis.
- b) Our mission is “Oasis transforms the lives of queer youth by creating a safe place to learn, connect, and thrive. Oasis envisions a world where queer youth are valued as strong, creative leaders.” The program requesting funding is directly aligned with this mission as our main goal is to provide support, coping skills, and leadership skills to GSD youth struggling with mental health issues.
- i) This program will directly address the GSD youths experiencing and living through a heightened risk of self-harm. Our research has identified that GSD youths are more likely to experience suicidal ideation than their heterosexual, cisgender peers. Providing an environment where GSD youths are supported by adults trained to listen and acknowledge their thoughts and feelings while relating to their experience Oasis’ program will alleviate the isolation the GSD youths of Pierce County experience.
  - ii) This program will assist Oasis in meeting our future goals by expanding our programs and participants, which will in turn, expand our opportunities to market funders, provide more

accurate data analysis of the effects of Oasis’ programming, and begin to create a revenue for Oasis to continue its program’s expansion.

- c) Please complete the table below with project goals.

**Project Goals:**

	# of young people served (youth and/or young adults)	% of young people who engage in activities that increase connectedness and/or feelings of safety	% of young people who engage in activities that help meet their personal goals
Grant Year 1 Goals	30	20%	25%
Grant Year 2 Goals	60	50%	50%
Grant Year 3 Goals	100	75%	80%

## 2) Community Partnership & Capacity (20%)

- a) For Oasis, “centering youth choice” means providing GSD youths with the information and skill sets to make physically and mentally healthy decisions for themselves and those they engage with. This concept is promoted through our existing programming and will continue to be enforced through increased frequency of that programming.
  - i) As GSD youths are the focused participants for Oasis programming, “centering youth-choice” is implemented for all BIPOC and LGBTQ2+ youths. The skills needed for healthy choices are provided through listening to youths and implementing the structure for our participants to listen to each other. We then focus on presenting all options and courses of action and discussing the pros and cons of each option. Through communication, we allow our participants to come to what they believe to be the healthiest choice for themselves and those around them.
  - ii) If awarded funding, Oasis’ programming will directly increase the informed decision-making of youths in the Pierce County area. Our programming is directly aligned with that mission and, therefore, will be increasing the opportunity for our GSD participants to make well-informed healthy choices.
- b) Oasis Youth Center is currently partnering with Reach Center for youths experiencing homelessness, GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, & Straight Education Network) for educators, students, and professionals to assist with school policies and inclusion while working with the Pierce County 24-hr Crisis Hotline.
  - i) The relationships with these organizations can be developed to provide information not only to Oasis participants but also to the family, friends, and peers of Oasis participants. With the relationship developed with GLSEN, Oasis will be able to expand the education and policy of inclusion for GSD students.

## 3) Project Timeline (10%)

- a) Please provide an estimated timeline for project roll-out. In your timeline, please specifically include the following:

- i) Project planning: Planning will begin in November 2022 with the intention of expanding both programs by January 2023.
- ii) Hiring: Hiring will take place in January 2023 for the temporary position of Retreat Organizer. This position will be a one-year limited-term contract and will conclude after completing the QTIYOC retreat.
- iii) Initial outreach and enrollment of young people: Outreach will begin in January 2023 to expand both programs.
- iv) Initial training: Training for volunteers will begin and finish in December of 2022 to ensure staffing for the expansion of programs.
- v) Establishing community partnerships: Partnerships have been established but will continue to be developed over the next four years.

## Application Budget (10%)

Budget forms and instructions are provided in an Excel workbook. **The first worksheet in the workbook is labeled "Instructions" and contains important information on filling out the budget forms. Please read the instructions carefully before filling out the forms.** Budget forms will not count towards the application narrative page limit.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total All Years
Personnel	\$48,000	\$0	\$0	\$48,000.00
Fringe Benefits	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0.00
Travel	\$600	\$0	\$0	\$600.00
Equipment	\$800	\$0	\$0	\$800.00
Supplies	\$1,800	\$0	\$0	\$1,800.00
Contractual/Subaward	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0.00
Other Direct Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0.00
Total Direct Charges	<b>\$51,200.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	\$11,200.00
Indirect Charges	\$3,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,480.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$55,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	\$15,000.00

Cost Descriptions	Assumptions	Additional Info
Personnel: A program director will be hired and trained under a limited term one year contract. This director will be charged with the responsibility of expanding both programs while	Once the limited term contract is completed the established criteria and protocols used for a successful expansion will be implemented with the existing staff of Oasis.	

also organizing the annual QTIYOC retreat.		
Travel: Funds will be used to transport volunteers and participants to the QTIYOC retreat.	Funds will cover renting busses for transport.	
Equipment: Funds will be used to generate the materials needed to expand the programs.	A space is already in use; equipment will be used to design and create informational pamphlets to expand the community and programs.	These funds will include the costs of an information designer or communications specialist.
Supplies: Funds will be used to pay for the materials necessary to expand the programs.	Materials will include: paper, ink, snacks for the program participants, and general office supplies.	
Indirect Charges: Indirect charges will include flexible funding and any funds needed to train volunteers.		

## Bibliography

- Gnan, G. H., Rahman, Q., Ussher, G., Baker, D., West, E., & Rimes, K. A. (2019). General and LGBTQ-specific factors associated with mental health and suicide risk among LGBTQ students. *Journal of Youth Studies*, 22(10), 1393–1408. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13676261.2019.1581361>
- Ream, G. L. (2020). An investigation of the LGBTQ+ youth suicide disparity using National Violent Death Reporting System Narrative Data. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 66(4), 470–477. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2019.10.027>