



## Spencer Pumilia Mental Health Support Fund

### What is the Spencer Pumilia Mental Health Support Fund?

The Spencer Pumilia Mental Health Support Fund (MHSF) provides financial assistance to LGBTQIA2+ young people ages 13-24 seeking to enhance wellness for themselves and/or their peers. In memory of one of our young people, Spencer, who died by suicide in 2023, IOYS has created a dedicated fund for young people to request funding to support activities, resources, and experiences that positively contribute to their mental health.

Funding for the MHSF is made possible by funding from the Born This Way Foundation. Mental health is all encompassing, and in alignment with IOYS's mission to build access, equity, and power with LGBTQIA2+ young people, these funds can support direct mental health services, resources that enhance mental health, or enrichment opportunities that contribute to life-long practices of investing in yourself.

At IOYS, we believe that there are many avenues to support mental health. While IOYS provides many resources to young people free of charge, we seek to enhance opportunities to explore access, equity, and power for young people navigating experiences beyond IOYS.

**Funds requested through this application will be paid by IOYS directly to a vendor, company, or agency. Funds are never given directly to the participant.**

As this is a pilot program, funding is currently available until funds run out. We hope to be able to replenish this funding bucket as we better understand the volume of requests.

We intend to use general information regarding the types of requests, funding amounts, and demand of requests to inform future grant applications, donation requests, and budgetary allocations. No personally identifying information will be used when reporting on this information.

*As this is a pilot program, IOYS may revise or update processes as we navigate funding requests. Our goal is to enhance access to support, and we will be responsive to how these funds are requested and how our process is working for young people. Updates to this document will be noted in the date in the footer of this document to indicate changes.*

## Eligibility

- This funding is available to young people between the ages of 13-24 enrolled in IOYS services
    - o Trusted adults may assist participants in their applications, but they may not apply on behalf of a young person
  - The maximum individual request for funding may not exceed \$500
  - Funding may not exceed \$500 for an individual in a calendar year
  - There is no restriction on the number of times an individual may apply
  - Priority will be given to first-time applicants to this fund
  - Funds will be distributed upon availability
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## What do these funds support?

The purpose of these funds is to increase access to resources, uplift equity to affirm young people, and build power through opportunity for LGBTQIA2+ young people. The intentions of these funds are to pay for services, resources, or activities that directly benefit the young person requesting these funds.

In supporting services, IOYS will comply with all Colorado laws regarding age of consent for services. Should the applicant request funds that require parental consent, that should be noted in the application and will be a consideration during the review of funding requests.

The following is a list of examples of how these funds could be used:

### Access

- Mental health therapy services and/or copays
- Entrance fees to a museum, national park, convention, or festival
- Registration for classes, coaching, workshops, or conferences

### Equity

- Voice training classes
- Non-medical gender affirming resources

### Power

- Materials, resources, and/or classes to support the arts
- Document fees (name changes, driver's license, securing birth certificates, notary costs etc.)
- Certifications (CPR, First Aid, Mental Health First Aid, ASIST, Microsoft, etc.)

*\*this list is not a comprehensive, but was compiled to provide examples of allowable uses. We encourage applicants to tell us what would support their mental health.*

## What do these funds not support?

While we seek to make these funds as flexible as possible, there are some restrictions on what IOYS will not fund:

- Medical procedures or surgeries
- Hormone treatments
- Activities related to political organizing, political candidates, or lobbying
- Donations to other organizations
- Resources or activities related to alcohol, drugs, and illegal substances
- Weapons (including self-defense resources)
- Legal fees

*\*this list is not comprehensive, and IOYS reserves the right to deny applications responsive to changes in policy and best practices.*

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## How does it work?

IOYS accepts application for this fund on a rolling basis, but review once per month and applications are reviewed by a board of IOYS constituents:

- Youth & Young Adult Case Manager
- One IOYS staff member (in addition to the Case Manager)
- One Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) member
  - o \*should a YAC member apply for funding, they will not be eligible to serve on the review board for the review period for which they seek funding
- One volunteer

The process is as follows:

**Step 1:** An IOYS participant completes the Mental Health Support Fund Application.

**Step 2:** An application screening team of two IOYS staff members (Director of Strategic Initiatives + another IOYS staff member) will review the application on or around the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month (some deadlines may shift dependent on weekends/scheduled breaks. Please refer to the funding schedule for deadlines).

The purpose of the review team is:

- a. To ensure the applicant meets the eligibility criteria to request these funds
  - a. Should the applicant not meet the eligibility requirements, they will be notified via email by the decision deadline. Should they choose to appeal the decision,

they will need to clarify any information regarding eligibility by the appeals deadline (please refer to the appeals process)

- b. To ensure requested funds are allowable within the scope of the MHSF
- c. To remove any personally identifying information from the application before sending applications to the review board to mitigate bias and protect confidentiality
- d. To compile an application package for the review board

**Step 3:** The review board reviews applications and assesses the applications on the following criteria:

- The request clearly depicts a need for these support funds
- The request is in alignment with our mission to enhance mental health
- The request is in alignment with the guidelines of these funds

**Step 4:** The review board sends their funding decisions to the application screening team no later than the last day of the month (timelines may be adjusted for holidays and extended breaks)

**Step 5:** The Director of Strategic Initiatives connects with each applicant to communicate their award and schedule payment for said activities.

*\*Funds requested through this application will be paid by IOYS directly to a vendor, organization, or company. Funds are never given directly to the awardee. Because we may need to establish engagement with specific vendors, please allow up to three weeks for us to process your final funds.*

**Appeals Process:** If you disagree or have questions regarding your funding request, you have until the award/appeal deadline in alignment with the month you submitted your application. (Please see the funding timeline for the appeals deadline).

In the event a request does not get funded, we will connect you with our Youth & Young Adult Case Manager to provide additional navigational support.

The steps for appeal are as follows:

- Submit a statement of appeal to the Director of Strategic Initiatives at [alie@insideoutys.org](mailto:alie@insideoutys.org)
- Include response to the identified reasons for denial

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## 2026 Funding Timeline

IOYS will follow this funding timeline for awards of these funds. Please follow the timeline to complete applications and ensure awards are funded within that timeframe.

Application Cycle	Application Screening	Committee Review	Deadline for recs returned to screeners	Notification of Awards	Award acceptance/ appeal deadline
April	April 15	April 15-24	April 24	April 27-30	May 11
May	May 13	May 13-22	May 22	May 26-29	June 12
June	June 15	June 15-24	June 24	June 24-30	July 14
July	July 15	July 15-24	July 24	July 27-31	August 11
August	August 12	Aug. 12-21	Aug. 21	Aug. 24-28	Sept. 11
September	Sept. 15	Sept. 15-25	Sept. 25	Sept. 28-30	Oct. 9
October	Oct. 15	Oct. 15-23	Oct. 23	Oct. 26-30	Nov. 11
Nov./Dec.	Nov. 16	Nov. 16-Dec. 2	Dec. 2	Dec. 2-4	Dec. 11

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### To Apply

Please submit an application by the deadline aligned with the application cycle. You can complete your application here: [Spencer Pumilia Mental Health Support Fund Application – Fill out form](#)