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The Moody's Foundation Request for Proposal (RFP) Guidelines

Guidance for nonprofit applicants

2026

By Invitation Only

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INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest in partnering with the Moody's Foundation. Our mission is to advance future readiness by building skills, resilience, and preparedness — helping individuals and communities navigate risk and thrive in a rapidly changing world. Through this Request for Proposal (RFP), we seek to support nonprofit organizations delivering high-impact programs aligned to our focus areas, including workplace resilience (future-ready digital and financial skills) and disaster preparedness (reducing risk and strengthening community readiness).

This guide provides an overview of the Moody's Foundation grant process — eligibility, award structure, program priorities, and how to apply — so you can quickly determine fit and plan accordingly. The process begins with a Request for Interest (RFI) in June, followed by an invitation to submit full proposals in July. Please review the timeline section for additional details on deadlines.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible, organizations must be:

- Legally registered nonprofit/charity (U.S. 501(c)(3) or local charitable equivalent)
- Not an individual or family support request
- Nonpartisan; no political, labor, fraternal/civic, or sectarian religious activities
- No advertising/marketing-only funding or standalone media production (books/films/video/TV)
- At least 3 years of independently audited financial statements
- At least 1 year of demonstrated results in one or both focus areas
- Run projects in Moody's Foundation priority geographies (*Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Egypt, Kenya, Malaysia, Mauritius, Morocco, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Vietnam, Charlotte, NC (USA), New York, NY (USA), San Francisco, CA (USA), Hong Kong, London (UK), Singapore*).

MOODY'S SUPPORT

- **Funding:** One-year program grants of US\$75,000 - 150,000 (regional partnerships) US\$300,000 – 600,000 (global partnerships). No multi-year grants; renewals may be available.
- **Expertise:** Skills-based volunteering, pro bono projects, and advisory support (including potential board service).

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- **Measurement:** Evaluation scorecards and support comparing results across similar programs via Impact Genome.
- **Connections:** Convenings and introductions to share learnings and connect with peers.
- **Resources:** Access to select Moody's research and tools (e.g., credit and climate resources), as available.

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

The Moody's Foundation will prioritize high impact nonprofit programs aligned to one (or both) of the focus areas below:

1) Workplace Resilience (future-ready digital + financial skills)

Programs that improve workforce mobility and long-term economic resilience, particularly for students/young adults, early-career talent, and individuals retraining or re-entering the workforce. Priority program types include:

- **Digital skills:** AI readiness, cybersecurity, upskilling/workforce re-entry
- **Financial skills:** business finance fundamentals, credit readiness, career & financial coaching

2) Disaster Preparedness (risk reduction + readiness before disasters strike)

Programs that reduce vulnerability before disasters and strengthen community preparedness and recovery capacity, especially for high-risk communities, underserved/low-insurance regions, and local institutions/first responders. Priority program types include:

- **Strong systems:** early warning & risk analytics, safer built environments, resilient critical infrastructure
- **Prepared communities:** emergency preparedness/response, building resilience to natural disasters & livelihood protection, financial education for disaster readiness/recovery

Cross-cutting preference: Partnerships that enable **engagement** (e.g., pro bono workshops, bootcamps, speaker series, hybrid digital + in-person programming) and reflect a **local impact, global purpose** approach.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The Moody's Foundation uses a **two-step application process** to ensure strong alignment and reduce the burden on nonprofit organizations.

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STEP 1: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)

We begin with an open **Request for Information (RFI)** to identify organizations whose work aligns with the Foundation's focus areas.

- Short online application
- High-level questions about your organization, program, and impact
- No detailed budgets or extensive documentation required

Organizations that demonstrate strong alignment will be invited to the next stage.

STEP 2: INVITATION ONLY REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

Shortlisted organizations will be invited to submit a **full proposal**.

- More detailed information about the program design, budget, and outcomes
- Submission through the Foundation's grant platform
- Used to inform final funding decisions

REVIEW & SELECTION

All applications are reviewed against clear criteria, including:

- Alignment with the Foundation's priorities
- Potential for meaningful impact
- Organizational capacity and experience

Selected organizations will be notified and guided through the grant agreement and onboarding process.

TIMELINE

- **June** – Request for Information (RFI) opens
- **Mid-June** – RFI submission deadline
- **July** – Invitations sent to selected organizations to submit full proposals (RFP)
- **August** – Full proposals (RFP) due
- **August-September** – Review, follow ups
- **September-October** - due diligence and final selections
- **November**– Grant notifications and award agreements issued
- **December**– external/internal communication

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WHAT A STRONG PARTNERSHIP LOOKS LIKE

Examples of strong partnerships may include:

- Employee volunteering (virtual or in-person), including skilled projects and board service
- Co-funding with corporate partners to expand impact
- Shared targets and KPIs, with regular reporting on progress
- Annual thought leadership (brief/webinar) and/or external speaking when available
- Annual partner story on the Foundation website
- Coordinated social media moments (cross-posts, spotlights)
- Joint press release at launch and/or key milestones

APPLICANT FAQs

Submission & access

- **I submitted my Concept Preview Assessment but I'm not sure it was received. What should I do?**
 - You'll receive an automated confirmation from Benevity Grants — check spam/junk folders.
- **Can I call or meet with someone from the Moody's Foundation/Community Impact team to discuss my submission?**
 - Due to the expected volume, we cannot offer individual meetings. Email questions to communityimpact@moodys.com.
- **Will Moody's provide feedback if my submission is not successful?**
 - Unfortunately, due to the expected volume, we're unable to provide individual feedback.

Eligibility

- **Can my organization apply if we are not operating in an emerging market or employee hub?**
 - No — only projects operating in eligible markets and/or employee hubs listed in this RFP will be considered.
- **The application is not on your website. Where do I find it?**

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- Complete and pass the Concept Preview Assessment to unlock the invitation to a full proposal.
- **I took the Concept Preview Assessment but did not pass. Can I still apply for the RFP?**
 - No — passing the assessment is required to apply.

Review & timeline

- **I submitted my Concept Preview Assessment and/or grant application. What are the next steps?**
 - Assessment review: up to 2 weeks. Application review: up to 4 weeks. You will be contacted by someone from Moody's Foundation/Community Impact team with the next steps.

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