

2024 Funding Application

Welcome to the common application for the Tsai CITY Student Exploration, Milestone, and Ecosystem Funds.

Please keep in mind:

1. Funding cannot be used to pay individuals for their time as a stipend, wage, to conduct research, or to pay for living expenses.
2. Your team must include at least one full-time Yale student who is enrolled in a degree-granting program at the university.
3. Funding is only available when the fall and spring semesters are in session.

Please answer the questions below to tell us a bit more about your idea and your team. Be mindful of the word count for each question.

[Here is a video overview of Tsai CITY Funding.](#)

For questions regarding the application please contact Matthew Gira, Director of Student Programming, at matthew.gira@yale.edu

NOTE ON DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Here at Tsai CITY, our mission is to inspire students from diverse backgrounds and disciplines to seek innovative ways to solve real-world problems. We are asking for demographic information to ensure that we are creating opportunities for and supporting students from all backgrounds and experiences. Please complete the optional demographic questions below.

Student Information

All students participating in an venture/initiative/project will be asked to provide the information below. Note: once you have created a student profile at Tsai CITY, this works with other programs at Tsai CITY.

- **First Name**
- **Last Name**
- **Email**
- **What is your non-Yale email?** Only to be used for once you're an alumni!
- **Headshot** Only used for marketing purposes (ex. Posting on the Tsai CITY website)
- **NetID**
- **What school are you a part of at Yale?**
- **What is your major/department at Yale?**
- **What is your graduation year at Yale?**

- **What is your gender/gender identity? Check all that apply.**
- **What racial and/or ethnic group(s) do you identify with?**
- **What are identities that you hold that are important to you?** Examples include gender, race, ethnicity, political affiliation, generation, education level, cultural identity, occupation, sexuality, family structure, housing status, mental health (health status/ability), incarceration status, institution affiliation, primary language, religion, immigration status, medical history, first-gen, income/ socio-economic class, quality of education, occupation, and/or parent's education

Fund Specific Questions

Not all questions are required for each fund. Each question has been labeled with what questions are asked for each fund.

- Student Exploration Fund = Exp
- Student Milestone Fund = Mile
- Student Ecosystem Fund = Eco

Which fund are you applying to?

- Student Exploration Fund (Exp)
- Student Milestone Fund (Mile)
- Student Ecosystem Fund (Eco)

Team Information (Exp, Mile)

- **What is your team name?**
- **What is your 1 sentence pitch?** Tip: What would we tweet and someone would understand your venture right away?
- **Optional: Team Logo**
- **Optional: What is your website?**

What category does your initiative/idea fit into? (Exp, Mile)

- For-Profit
- Non-Profit
- Hybrid (for-profit and non-profit)
- Initiative/Program/Event
- I don't know yet

What pathways does this venture/organization fall under? (All)

- Civic Innovator
- Creative
- Entrepreneur
- Explorer
- Intrapreneur

In 50 words or less, describe your idea or venture. (Exp, Mile)

What is the potential unmet need or pain point your idea addresses? Max 150 words. (Exp, Mile)

How will you prove that you have found an unmet need or pain point? What test will you run? What's your hypothesis? Max 150 words. (Exp)

Who is your target audience/customer/user? How many potential customers/users have you spoken to thus far? What have you learned from them? Max 200 words (Exp, Mile)

What milestone or goal will funding from the Student Milestone Fund help you achieve? How so? Max 200 words. (Mile)

What makes your venture/initiative/project innovative? How have the successes and failures of others within the same sector, geography, or demographic informed your work? Max 200 words. (Mile)

What will the impact of your venture/initiative/project be? How do you plan to measure the success and/or impact of your venture/initiative/project? Be specific as to how you will measure traction/impact. Max 200 words (Mile)

Describe the traction you've achieved to date. Max 200 words (Mile)

What organization are you applying on behalf of? (Eco)

Are you a student group formally affiliated with Tsai CITY? (Eco)

- Yes
- No

Please briefly describe the event or initiative. Include who, what, when, where, and why. Max 150 words. (Eco)

How does this event or initiative build up or fill a gap within the Yale Innovation Ecosystem? Max 150 words. (Eco)

How many Yale students will this project serve? Numbers only. (Eco)

How much funding are you applying for? Numbers only. (All)

Please provide a line by line budget. Keep in mind the budget cannot include paying individuals (ex. paying for customer interviews, consulting fees, gift cards) (All)

Are you receiving funding outside of Tsai CITY? NOTE: This does not impact your eligibility to participate in funding. (All)

- Yes
- No

Please list both pending and secured funding sources and their respective amounts. (All)

Are you applying with a Yale laboratory-based technology? (Exp, Mile)

- Yes
- No

Did you work with a faculty member to develop your idea? (Exp, Mile)

- Yes
- No

Is your venture/organization directly dealing with minors (anyone under the age of 18)? (All)

- Yes
- No

Is your venture/organization directly dealing with education in the New Haven community? (All)

- Yes
- No

Have you established your startup/venture/organization as a legal entity? (All)

- Yes
- No

If you have a physical project, please check all of the following that work on your project will involve (All):

- Working with powerful portable and small benchtop tools (> ½ hp) (10-15 amps @ 120 V AC, 24V-36V portable, pneumatics, hydraulics), such as a circular saw, belt sander, framing nailer, ½ hp geared drill, reciprocating saw, > 24V cordless tools, chop / miter saws, routers, mini-lathe, angle grinders, printing presses (Vandercook)
- Hazardous materials or energy (including electrical)
- Atypical activities for fabrication, testing or use
- Working at heights
- Structures which will support people or be over people
- Unusually heavy materials
- Unusually awkward or repetitive tasks with materials or tools
- N/A

OPTIONAL: Attach any relevant evidence of your traction to date. If there's a link, include it in the description above. Please know, the maximum file size is 10MB. (Exp, Mile)

OPTIONAL: Where did you draw your inspiration from to launch this project/initiative? (All)

OPTIONAL: Anything else you'd like us to know? (All)

Where did you hear about this? (All)

- Tsai CITY Newsletter
- Word of Mouth
- Tsai CITY Website
- Tsai CITY Staff Member
- Other