1. **When I register on Acceptd, it asks me if I am an individual or a student. What should I choose?**
   Individual. As you proceed, it will be clear that you are actually applying on behalf of your organization.

2. **When I submit my application on Acceptd, it asks me to pay a fee. Does it cost $30 to submit an application?**
   No. There is no fee to apply for The Lewis Prize for Music.

3. **What is the process after I submit my Round 1 application?**
   - Round 2 Applicants will be notified in early July and are invited to submit additional application materials (due by July 29).
   - Finalists will be notified in early September and are invited to submit a Request for Proposal (due October 21) and host a Virtual Site Visit (during Sept. 24-Oct. 21).
   - Awardees are notified in early December and asked to be interviewed in mid-December for a highlight video managed and paid for by TLPM.
   - Awardees are announced publicly in mid January 2023 with funds provided afterwards.

4. **The Lewis Prize Criteria mentions “Creative Youth Development.” I’m not familiar with this term. What does it mean?**
   Creative Youth Development (CYD) describes programs that blend excellence in artistic instruction with principles of positive youth development. More information about CYD and its growth as a field can be found at the [Creative Youth Development National Partnership](https://www.creativeyouthdevelopment.org).

5. **What does systems change mean to the Lewis Prize?**
   An in depth definition, background, and examples can be found [here](https://www.thelewisprize.org/systems-change). The Accelerator Awards will go to those who have a solid systems change initiative underway and are beginning to see progress toward a tipping point, or who are sustaining the transition to a new system.
6. **Our organization provides additional support services to young people and their families, such as academic tutoring, meals, transportation, technology access, etc. Should we mention these in our application?**

   Yes. The Lewis Prize for Music recognizes and values the commitment CYD organizations make to filling systemic gaps and building new systems beyond access to music so young people thrive. We recognize that these activities contribute to systems change alongside musical opportunities. The application includes questions that ask you to share information about your program’s holistic focus on youth wellbeing.

7. **What will Reviewers be looking for in the Round I Application?**

   The Lewis Prize strives to see the heart in each organization. Centering racial equity and inclusion as well as youth leadership that represents and centers the communities served by the organization is of high value to TLPM. We want to learn about your overall work. Please do not focus the application on a specific or individual program. We want insights into your Big Idea toward systems change which is generally a multi-faceted whole-organization undertaking. We know that systemic change does not happen alone, so we are interested in your community partnerships that are equally invested in your Big Idea.

8. **Who are the review panelists for The Lewis Prize?**

   The review panelists are individuals chosen for their diverse expertise across the fields of music, education, philanthropy, community organizing, and social justice. One-third to two-thirds of each Panel are young adult leaders who have participated in CYD programs. You can find the full list of panelists from last year’s prize process [here](#). If you would like to nominate someone to serve as an Application Reviewer, check out our nomination form [here](#).

9. **My video (or audio) recordings are not professional quality. Will this hurt my chances of moving forward?**

   No. We understand that not every program has the means to provide a professional recording, and we acknowledge that recordings produced since 2020 will look very different from those of previous years. We are interested in how the video (or audio) samples display rigor/musical artistry, artistic and developmental growth, personal expression, youth leadership, cultural identity, and enthusiastic engagement of the young people performing.

10. **I have only been working as the CEO/Executive Director at my current organization for 1 year. Am I still eligible to apply?**

    No. The 2023 application requires eligible leaders to have been serving in their leadership role reporting to and being directly supervised by the Board of Directors since in or before 2020.
11. Eligibility asks that our Board of Directors and/or senior management staff have at least 40% of its members reside in or represent the community we serve? What does this mean?
   TLPM believes that the best community work is done when it’s directed by and led by those from the community. We seek to fund these organizations. We understand that every organization and community is unique and that each organization needs to determine their own community representation. Should you advance beyond Round 1, be prepared to describe how your organization meets this criteria and how you determined who is representative of the community served.

12. My program takes place during the school day but we are not funded by the school system. Are we eligible?
   TLPM supports programs that happen in out-of-school time, regardless of funding source. Program operations must happen outside of those hours. If you run programming both within the school day and after school/out-of-school time, you are eligible. Please reach out to TLPM for clarification if it is unclear of your program’s eligibility. School Booster Clubs and other 501(c)3’s that exist to support a school music program do not meet the CYD eligibility requirements.

13. The application is asking if the leader of the organization is filling out the application. Our organization has a grant writer. May they fill in this application?
   The Lewis Prize values the voice of the leader. It is required that the Round 1 application be filled out directly by the leader of the organization. Grant writers may be involved if applicants move to future application rounds.

14. The application states that the Lewis Prize aims to support a diverse group of leaders and organizations. Are only people of color, rural communities, and women leaders eligible to apply?
   If you meet our eligibility criteria, you are eligible to apply. The Lewis Prize for Music knows that organizations that are run by and/or uplift people of color, rural communities, and women leaders are often overlooked in funding opportunities. We are putting attention and effort toward creating equitable opportunities.

*If you would like to ask for clarification, please reach out through The Lewis Prize Contact Form.