

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FROM COALITIONS COMPLETING THE LEARNING COLLABORATIVE

## AND PREPARING TO SUBMIT THE IMPLEMENTATION PHASE APPLICATION:

**What is the core organization's role in carrying out coalition work?** We expect that the core organizations will all be represented in the governing body and that they will either: a) receive funding for their contribution to the coalition's plan or b) receive staff from the coalition's budget to support them in implementing their contribution toward the coalition's plan. Core organizations will be expected to share power with each other and with persons with recent lived experience to make decisions about strategy, budget, hiring, and any other decisions impacting the coalition.

As directors and/or the administration of the organization holding the funds for the coalition, how much input do we have in the decision-making process? One of the first activities we ask coalitions to do in the Learning Collaborative is to map out their stakeholders. We encourage every coalition to have a mixture of: a) senior leaders who can bring resources to the coalition, b) connectors and bridge-builders who can help move ideas into action, and c) community leaders who have recent lived experience of the challenge(s) the coalition wants to tackle. All three of those groups have expertise that is essential to a coalition's success. Decision-making needs to involve all 3 groups of stakeholders.

**Are Persons with Lived Experience the only decision-makers allowed in the coalition?** We want all stakeholders to bring their best knowledge and expertise to the table, which includes partnering organizations and Persons with Lived Experience.

**Can core organizations provide guidance and advice to the coalition?** We want core organizations that are aligned with the coalition's vision/strategy and who see Prosperemos Junto/ Thriving Together as an opportunity to strengthen their own mission/vision/strategy to collaborate to reach the coalition's goals.

**Can core organizations use existing staff to carry out the Aim of the coalition?** It is ok to use existing staff as long as there is a clear job description and clarity about how much of their time is going to the PJTT work versus work being done for their previously existing role.

**Who will supervise the ongoing work of the coalition?** We recommend that the coalition hire a coalition coordinator/executive director and create a steering committee to guide the coalition coordinator/executive director, and hire any other backbone staff deemed necessary to complete

coalition work.

**Can core organizations hire internally?** Some coalitions have found success in creating a backbone model where staff are hired to serve the coalition as a whole through a centralized structure that receives funding from the fiscal sponsor. Other coalitions have chosen to distribute funds to each organization to hire internally and then found ways for their internal hires to coordinate with each other across the different agencies, although this is more difficult to manage and requires a lot more time from existing organization leaders. It is up to the coalition to decide how they will approach hiring.

If one of the organizations has space to host one of the proposed programs, can that agency lease/rent out to be compensated and add that cost to the budget? This would be an example of an indirect expense that would not be listed separately in the budget but calculated as a percentage of the coalition's total budget.

**Can liability insurance be included as a specific line item in the coalition budget rather than an indirect cost?** Yes, if the liability insurance is increasing due to the coalition's work, that additional cost can be listed in your budget as a specific line item. MHM is willing to pay for liability insurance that is specific to each project (if that represents a significant increase in cost), but not the ongoing/previous liability insurance cost for other work outside PJTT.

Since the coalition will be employing people, can the following insurances be included as a specific line item in the budget or will the organization holding the funds be responsible to cover them?

- Workers Comp
- Volunteer liability
- Abuse and Molestation liability
- Auto insurance coverage
- Professional liability

Those pieces of insurance are the responsibility of the coalition - that could mean they happen through a fiscal sponsorship model or each employer (within the coalition) providing them, but it's up to the coalition to figure that out based on who (which organizations) is hiring people for coalition work. We will utilize tax-exemption under the non-profit holding the coalition funds, but where that may not apply, we want to account for tax. Is there a better way to account for that in the budget? Increase expenses and do not separate sales taxes in the budget.

**Which organization will be responsible for managing the funds?** The coalition needs to determine this as a group. There are a few ways to approach this — It could be one of the organizations within the coalition functioning as the fiscal sponsor, a separate organization filling the role of a fiscal sponsor, or a new nonprofit that is established to advance the work of the coalition. These are only some of the possible solutions.

**Can we apply for more than one million dollars?** Yes. We offer a total of \$450k to \$1.05 million over 3 years as a recommendation, but we have had previous applicants apply for more. We do not recommend applying for more than \$1.5m over 3 years, and we strongly encourage the coalition to

think about how each dollar requested advances the coalition's strategy.

**Can the funding be distributed evenly to all core organizations?** We encourage the coalition to have conversations surrounding funding distribution plans and decide what assets/strengths each organization will bring to the coalition.

**Can the core organizations complete the budget and have PLE review it as the budget-making process for the coalition?** We caution against the core organizations completing the budget without any dialogue or conversation with Persons with Lived Experience. Budgets reveal the priorities of any group, so we'd recommend a collaborative process that engages community advocates/ Persons with Lived Experience throughout (which doesn't necessarily require everyone to be present for every conversation).

**Do all core organizations receive funding through the coalition budget?** We recommend that every core organization either receive funding through the budget or receive staffing to advance their commitments toward the coalition's plan.