Eligibility, Application Guidelines, and General Information
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This Fund is currently intended to provide short-term, emergency relief to yoga professionals who are facing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 crisis. Where resources are limited, funding will be prioritized for those who are unable to meet the most basic needs of food and shelter.

The application process is designed so that applicants have many ways to show their needs and prove their eligibility, with equity and access as top priorities.

The application, selection, and payment processes will be administered by Ivy Child International.

Who is eligible to apply?

- Applicants must be yoga professionals (yoga teachers and/or yoga school/studio owners—applying for individual support, not for financial assistance to support a yoga business); and
- Applicants must demonstrate a loss of income as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.

Note: Priority will be given to applicants who are at or below 100% of the Area Median Income (AMI) prior to loss or reduction of income due to the COVID-19 crisis (see below).

What do I need to show that I am a yoga professional?

You can show that you are a yoga teacher by providing at least one of the following documents:

1. Yoga teacher certificate or credential;
2. Professional yoga CV;
3. Yoga support letter from a current/former yoga employer verifying duration and experience of teaching; or
4. Relevant contracts or bank statements highlighting proof of income if you are an independently contracted yoga teacher or professional unable to submit the above information.
What do I need to show my income and my income loss?

You can show your income with one of the following documents:

- 2019 income tax return (first page);
- 2018 income tax return (first page) and 2019 year-end income statement; or
- An affidavit concerning 2019 income.

The application does not require government identification numbers, so please delete them or cross them out prior to submitting.

You can show your yoga income loss/reduction due to COVID-19 with one of the following options below:

1. Two pay stubs/pay slips, one showing yoga income before loss or reduction, and one pay stub showing yoga income after loss or reduction dated after January 1, 2020
2. Letter from a current/former yoga employer that indicates change of income due to COVID-19;
3. Business closure notice from the applicant’s current/former yoga employer dated January 1, 2020 or after;
4. Department of Revenue or other official statement that shows reduction of child support payments since January 1, 2020;
5. An affidavit from a family or child support provider indicating that they are unable to pay applicant because of COVID-19; or

What other things will I need for the application?

You will need to show proof of residence with one of the following documents:

1. Current government photo ID with address;
2. Current signed lease, mortgage statement, or signed tenant agreement;
3. School enrollment documentation of a dependent child for the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 school year; or
4. Other valid documentation such as a utility bill for the applicant’s residence dated within the past 30 days or current car registration with the applicant’s residence.
Other Important Information for Applicants:

- Approved applicants will receive a minimum of **$150 USD** and maximum **$1500 USD**.
- Immigration status will not be considered in determining eligibility (i.e., undocumented residents are eligible).
- Yoga income reduction may include, but not be limited to: reduction of hours of yoga employment, loss of yoga employment, loss of other income sources (such as reduction or loss of family or child support, or other significant income disruption).
- Loss of income does not include loss of investment income.
- This application does not require any government identification numbers to apply for these funds. Please cross out or delete ID numbers from any documents submitted.
- We reserve the right to request additional information from applicants as needed to ensure the integrity of the program.

How can the funds awarded be used?

The Yoga Alliance Foundation Emergency Relief Fund was created to provide emergency relief to yoga professionals who face financial hardship due to loss of their yoga teaching/training income as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. Those who receive funding can use it for basic livelihood needs that they would have otherwise paid for using their yoga teaching/training income.

If I receive funding support, will it count as income and require me to pay taxes on it?

- **For U.S. applicants:** A payment of funds from the Yoga Alliance Foundation Emergency Relief Fund to the applicant, or to someone else on an applicant’s behalf, is not income for the applicant because such a payment of funds is a qualified disaster relief payment under the federal law of the United States of America.
- **For applicants outside the U.S.:** Please refer to your country’s guidelines on disaster/emergency relief specifications for further information.
- Because a payment of funds is not income, we will not provide a tax form for any payment of funds to an applicant.

*If an applicant has further tax questions, the applicant should contact a tax professional.*
How to Apply

An application link will be posted [here](https://www.yogaalliance.org/foundation) on May 26, 2020. Once submitted, the application will be reviewed. Applicants will receive email updates about the status of their application as it is processed.

The application will include four basic steps:

1. Complete the application.
2. Upload supporting documents.
3. Sign and date a Statement of Verification.
4. Confirm and submit.