

What do you mean by computational thinking and computer science?

Definitions of CT and CS used in this initiative and for this RFP are:

- **Computational Thinking (CT).** Computational thinking refers to a set of problem-solving and automation skills foundational to computer science though also transferable to many fields and applicable to college and career readiness. It is a way of analyzing and breaking down problems into solvable units, using the power of computing to solve those problems, and processing information and creating connections to transform data into understanding.
- **Computer Science (CS).** Computer science is the study of computers and algorithmic processes, including principles, their hardware and software designs, applications, and impact on society (Based on Computer Science Teachers Association definition). Computer Science is *not* computer literacy or how to use a computer for functions like word processing

Who can apply?

Any U.S. school or public library serving youth, preschool through high school. Applicants do not need to be American Library Association (ALA) members to apply; however, ALA members will be given preference during the application review process. Libraries Ready to Code and the Phase III RFP primarily use “youth” for brevity and consideration of the developmental appropriateness of most computational thinking (CT) and computer science (CS) resources that are available.

If I have questions, how can I get help?

- Read the RFP and Resource guide
- Participate in a Q & A. On August 1st, from 2:30 - 3:30, eastern, there will be a free informational session for anyone interested in submitting an application. [Sign up online](#) to reserve your seat. The session will also be recorded and posted on the [Libraries Ready to Code](#) site.
- Submit your question through the [Libraries Ready to Code](#) site.

How much money is available and what can I spend the funding on?

You may request up to \$25,000 and will be asked to provide a description of what the funds will be used for. There are no restrictions on what the funds can be used for. However, the expenses must be integral to designing and implementing your program.

Can my library submit multiple applications for different programs?

No. We are looking for libraries to be a part of this cohort, not individual programs. If you have multiple programs at your library, please coordinate and submit one application. If you are in a library system with multiple branches, more than one branch may apply if the proposed programs are significantly different in scope, or intended audience, etc.

How are you defining “youth” and the age group participating in the CT/CS activities?

Libraries Ready to Code and this RFP primarily use “youth” for brevity and consideration of the developmental appropriateness of most CT and CS resources that are available. This program is open to programs that provide activities for youth that fall anywhere in the preschool through high school range.

Does it matter what my service area is?

No. We are looking for a strong mix of libraries from small, rural, suburban and urban communities.

Do I need to hire a grant writer?

No. The application will be based on a detailed Request for Proposal (RFP) that will serve as a guide for you to answer the application questions. You can also familiarize yourself with the Ready to Code initiative by reading these [background materials](#). Our goal is to select the cohort based on what they can contribute to the cohort, not their ability to write a proposal.

Do I need to know how to code or have a CS background?

No! We want to engage all kinds of libraries and create a toolkit that will empower any library to implement a CS or CT program, regardless of the expertise they have on staff or in the community.

If I didn't participate in Ready to Code Phase I or II can I still apply?

Yes!

What language will the toolkit and materials be in?

All CT/CS materials piloted in Phase III will be in English, so youth will need to be able to participate in an English-speaking program. However, we do anticipate finding the need for outreach materials, such as those to families, may need to be offered in multiple languages.

How long will my grant project last?

Grant requirements and use of grant funds will be completed by September 30, 2018 but you may opt to continue your project after the deadline, if desired.

The RFP says the toolkit will be released during National Library Week in April 2018. Do I still need to incorporate it into my programs?

Yes. Even though the toolkit will be made broadly available in April 2018, we are still interested in feedback from the library cohort.

What can I spend the funding on?

You may request up to \$25,000 and will be asked to provide a description of what the funds will be used for. There are no restrictions on what the funds can be used for. However, the expenses must be integral to designing and implementing your program. The proposed expenses must also be within reason of what other similarly situated libraries could emulate in order to create sustainable, replicable program models.