

Policy: Donations We Accept

At yli, we seek to live our values - Innovation, Community, Social Justice, and Inclusion - in every aspect of our work.

As a nonprofit, we rely on funding from a variety of organizations and individuals in order to keep our work moving forward. This funding makes it possible to provide living wages, meaningful benefits, and pathways toward greater opportunity for our staff. It also pays for all of our program needs, including offering stipends to compensate the valuable contributions of our youth and grants for youth-led projects. A key aspect of our innovative model is the pipeline we build for youth to continue growing their leadership skills as young professionals and social justice leaders - both inside our organization as program leads, executive staff, and board members, and beyond in whatever direction their dreams propel them.

That said, we recognize that not all funding streams are aligned with our values. Some funders actively perpetuate the systems of oppression that our youth are striving every day to dismantle. We sometimes need to make difficult decisions about what donations to accept and which ones to refuse.

We do not accept funding from foundations, individuals, or other entities that acquire wealth by producing, promoting, selling, or investing in the following:

- Alcohol
- Tobacco
- Sugary-sweet beverages
- Cannabis
- Gambling or Casinos
- Check Cashing
- Private Prisons
- Weapons
- Fossil Fuels
- Human Rights Violations (e.g. Employing Slave Labor/Human Trafficking, Violating Indigenous Land Rights, Reinforcing Racially Discriminatory Policies)

Ultimately, we seek partners and allies to our movement: individuals and entities that believe in our youth and are striving to do their part to make the world a more equitable place, not just by contributing their resources to our youth-led work, but by living out these values in their own workplaces.