



Solidarity Grant Guidelines

Purpose:

The Solidarity grant program provides unrestricted grant support for racial equity movement building in our region. Rather than quick, short-term solutions, temporary relief, or individual-directed services and interventions, *movement building* is focused on collectively reimagining and altering systems, and shifting power to achieve long-term, transformative change.

The most effective drivers of racial equity are the social movements led by those most affected by injustice. The Solidarity grant program thus seeks to go beyond charity towards a greater solidarity with Black and ALAANA (African, Latine, Asian, Arab, and Native American) members of our community – those who, through their everyday lives, intimately know the change needed for a more just, equitable, and sustainable future that benefits all.

Grant Size and Funding Uses

Grant award size and funding periods vary and are based on funding availability and proposal needs. Additionally, applicants can opt-in to having their proposal shared with our donor partners.

Potential uses for Solidarity awards include, but are not limited to:

- General operations, strategic planning, and project support
- Advocacy, legal, and direct action campaigns
- Sabbaticals, rest, and other healing justice work
- Narrative change storytelling, world reimagining, and creative expression
- Community education, organizing, and training

Ineligible Requests

This is an unrestricted grant opportunity; however, requests for capital campaigns or reimbursements require additional conversation with the Programs team. Requests that focus solely on individual-directed services and interventions are ineligible.

Who can apply?

To be considered eligible, applicants must be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, school, governmental or religious entity, or a group that is fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3) organization whose work directly benefits residents of Charlottesville or the counties of Albemarle, Buckingham, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, Nelson, and Orange. If an applicant does not have a fiscal sponsor, we will try our best to help match them with one.

Funding will be given to Black- and/or ALAANA-led organizations, groups, or projects that focus on *advancing racial equity through movement building*. We consider Black- and ALAANA-led as any of the following:

- Executive Director(s) or equivalent
- Staff majority
- Volunteer majority (if a volunteer-led group/organization)
- Board majority
- Project team majority

How to Apply

Applicants, especially first-time applicants and those requesting large multi-year grants, are strongly encouraged to meet with the Programs team prior to submission to understand our current resource availability and to collaborate on a proposal development strategy.

Proposals are submitted as a Letter of Intent (LOI) through our Grants Lifecycle Manager online system. The LOI form asks applicants to provide a supporting budget and to describe the following:

1. How your group/organization's work and history reflect the purpose of the grant program.
2. The underlying causes of the issue/inequity being addressed, your vision of success, and how you plan to accomplish your goal(s).
3. The roles of key leaders and partners and why they are well-positioned to do this work.
4. How your work is guided by those who are most impacted.

If you have an application that you have submitted to another funder that thoroughly describes your request, feel free to submit that application and budget to us instead. If you submit a previously written application, be sure to include all relevant information asked above and how this request matches the purpose and goals of the Solidarity program. All application submissions will be reviewed by the Community Advisory Committee using the criteria below.

Deadline

Proposals are accepted on a rolling basis as long as funds are available. Decisions are announced quarterly (in March, June, September, and December).

Criteria

The Review Committee considers the following when reviewing your proposal:

- **Alignment:** The applicant's work clearly and thoughtfully matches the above purpose and goals of the grant program.
- **Impact:** The applicant demonstrates a deep understanding of an inequity/need experienced by their focus community and offers a clear and compelling pathway for redress.
- **Capacity:** The applicant is well positioned to lead the proposed work at this time.
- **Power Building/Sharing:** The people most impacted by the issue are informing/co-creating the response effort.
- **Care for Resources:** The proposed budget makes sense for the activities and outcomes outlined in the proposal.

Decision-Making Process

- Applicants will receive an email acknowledgement of their LOI upon submission.
- Proposals will be reviewed by staff to determine eligibility, evaluated by our Community Advisory Committee, and then approved by our Board of Directors.
- Some proposals may require a facilitated design meeting and additional documentation before a final decision is made. More information about our design meeting process can be found on our Grants Opportunities webpage under *Solidarity grant*.
- Proposals shared with our donor partners will be reviewed at their discretion.

Reporting

Foundation staff may contact grantees for periodic updates depending on the nature of the proposal. Grantees are asked to participate in an annual meeting or site visit conducted by foundation staff.

Questions

Contact the Programs team at grants@cacfonline.org or (434) 296-1024 with questions about this opportunity.