



Requests for Proposals: LGBT Community Fund COVID-19 Response Grants

RFP Release Date:	June 25, 2020
Full Application Deadline:	July 15, 2020
Funding Decisions:	Late July

Background:

In response to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the LGBT Community Fund of the Chicago Community Trust has adjusted Fund II's last round of grantmaking to support the immediate needs of Chicago's LGBTQ Community and organizations. The Fund recognizes individuals and organizations are in need of funding for general operations.

Our goal is to streamline the application process to fund as many qualified organizations as possible.

Grant Criteria and Grant Amounts:

The General Operating support grants will range from \$5,000 to \$25,000.

Eligible Applicants:

Strong and primary preference is given to LGBTQ organizations or organizations that have an historical commitment to the LGBTQ community through demonstrated program delivery.

In order to be eligible for funding from the LGBT Community Fund the applicant organization(s) must demonstrate the following:

- That it is a 501(c)(3) public charity in good standing in the state of IL at start of COVID-19 pandemic
- Strong and primary preference is given to LGBTQ organizations or organizations that have an historical commitment to the LGBTQ community through demonstrated program delivery.
- Grants may **not** be used for capital campaigns or improvements, endowments, fundraising events, partisan political activities or to support individuals.
- That grant funds will be used in one year. Multi-year funding is not supported.
- Direct service provider and/or works in coalition with members to provide resources
- Faith-based and religious organizations are eligible to apply for project- specific grants provided that the program supported does not promote or require religious doctrine and that the applicant otherwise complies with The Fund's requirements and grantmaking focus.
- That the organization(s) involved did not receive an Impact Grant from the Fund in 2019 or from the Community Grants Cycle in 2020.

Sponsored organizations without 501(c)(3) status must identify their fiscal sponsor as soon as possible and ask them to complete an organization profile in The Chicago Community Trust's grants management system, GrantCentral, prior to the sponsored organization's application submission. Fiscal sponsors must log in and complete and certify an organization profile in GrantCentral at <https://cct.smartsimple.com> prior to application submission.

Ineligible Uses:

Grants may **not** be used for capital campaigns or improvements, endowments, fundraising events, partisan political activities or to support individuals.

Evaluation and Learning:

Sharing successes or challenges in achieving measures of progress is critical to our collective learning, decision-making and impact.

The Trust is committed to achieving our long-term goals and outcomes. We are developing outcome measures both internally and with our partners that inform progress towards our shared mission. Your project outcomes should be informed by why you think that the project or strategy will lead to the anticipated result or long-term change (i.e., your theory of change). After you identify those outcomes, we are asking grant applicants to develop specific, time-limited measures of progress. For shorter term grants (1-year), these outcomes may not be achieved during the duration of the project. Measures of Progress provide measurable and reportable evidence that a proposed project and/or organization has effectively achieved – or is on the path to achieving - its objectives. These are what can be measured during the term of the grant period and contribute to your longer-term outcomes and are aligned to the Trust's strategic priorities. We also recognize that there could be challenges to the implementation of any grant, many of which are not under the control of grant recipients, which may prevent you from achieving your targets. Learning with you about the progress made towards your outcomes and measures is part of the Trust's evaluation and learning efforts.

Collection of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Demographic Data:

The Trust asks that grant-seekers provide demographic data on board and staff as well as clients/beneficiaries of programs and services. The Trust believes that the board and staff composition of grantees should be inclusive and reflect the diversity of the demographics of the region and the individuals they serve. Diversity for the Trust encompasses but is not limited to ethnicity, race, gender, sexual orientation and identification, age, economic circumstance, class, disability, geography and philosophy. For this reason, the Trust does take into consideration the demographic make-up of the board, staff and clients of a grant applicant as an important proposal evaluation criterion.

Proposal Report

A final report on how the funds impacted will be required for grant recipients.

Application Process:

Applicants must complete their application via GrantCentral, The Chicago Community Trust's online grants management system. To access an application, grant seekers must log into GrantCentral at <https://cct.smartsimple.com>.

Applicants must complete an Organization Profile, which is on the last tab within their GrantCentral account. If the Organization Profile was completed for a previous funding opportunity, it must be reviewed and, if needed, updated and certified prior to application submission.

Sponsored organizations without 501(c)(3) status must identify their fiscal sponsor as soon as possible and ask them to complete an organization profile in GrantCentral prior to the sponsored organization's application submission. Fiscal sponsors must log in and complete and certify an organization profile in GrantCentral at <https://cct.smartsimple.com> prior to application submission.

In addition to completing the application, please provide the following supplemental responses in your application. **Please complete supplemental questions in a word document and upload to Grant Central.**

1. Please describe the impact of COVID on your organization, organization's financial health and clients (2,500 character limit).
2. Given the grant is for general operations, please quantify the impact of potential funding. How will the grant help you? Numbers of clients served? Impact on budget? (1,500 characters)

Label the Word Document with the organizations name and include the mission statement in the body of the document. You will be able to upload any additional documents requested in the RFP as part of your application submission in GrantCentral.

Contact Information

For technical questions regarding GrantCentral, email grants@cct.org.

For programmatic and application content questions email Patrick Sheahan, grants consultant, pmsheahan@gmail.com