



April 1, 2022

Dear Friends:

The Asian Giving Circle (AGC) is pleased to announce the 18th Annual Request for Proposals (RFP). The purpose of this document is to provide an overview of AGC and to outline (a) the priority funding areas identified by AGC and (b) the grant application process.

About AGC

Founded in 2002, the Asian Giving Circle (AGC) is a grassroots philanthropic project that supports Asian and Pacific Islander-led (API) nonprofits in Chicagoland. AGC is composed of members (i.e. donors) that are committed to pooling and directing their financial resources to organizations that are advancing social justice. AGC is designed and dedicated to be responsive to the current issues facing API communities - a landscape of communities that is incredibly diverse, composed of more than 30 ethnic groups speaking hundreds of languages and dialects

To date, AGC has contributed more than \$750,000 to nonprofit organizations serving API communities in the Chicago region. AGC is one of the oldest active giving circles for API communities and originally started as part of the Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy (AAPIP) Giving Circle Network.

AGC believes that giving is an act that can transform ourselves and our communities to build the world we need now. While AGC intentionally directs resources to API-led organizations due to [continued histories of disinvestment](#), we believe our work, and the work we support, must support, be informed by, and add value to broader struggles for liberation.

2022 Funding Priorities

In 2022, **AGC will be funding projects that bolster the internal resilience of organizations that use community organizing as a primary strategy.** AGC considers work that contributes to community power building, collective action/advocacy, and/or community change as community organizing. We recognize that community organizing occurs across a wide range of spheres (e.g. culture/arts, civic engagement, youth work).

AGC grant awards typically range from \$2,000 to \$8,000.

We recognize that the past three years have required an extraordinary level of care, imagination, and resilience from community organizations. As such, we would like to use our funds to help make rest and



care more possible for organizational staff and volunteers. We encourage applying organizations to think broadly about what may support the resilience of their work, including:

- **Rest**
 - Examples: funds to support paid time off for staff, funds to hire additional staff
- **Celebration**
 - Examples: volunteer recognition event, a day of paid-for meals and activities for staff
- **Healing Work**
 - Examples: wellness stipends for teams for individual staff members, curriculum for well-being, access to low cost mental health services
- **Art or Storytelling Projects**
 - Examples: workshop facilitation, reading or gallery presentation
- **Visioning/Strategy Sessions**
 - Examples: Consultants to facilitate/design sessions, team building retreat, connection circles
- **Training, Coaching, or Capacity-Building**
 - Examples: mindfulness training, resilience coaching, individual or group coaching for entry- and mid-level staff, management training for people leaders, access to ongoing training resources, stipend for WFH equipment, mental health first aid training, professional development stipends for staff, project management/ Agile training-coaching
- **Community Programming**
 - Examples: planning retreat for a program, staffing or expenses to continue a community program

The examples above are not meant to be an exhaustive list but rather to add clarity and imagination to how the funds can be used.

Eligible Organizations

Metropolitan Chicago area organizations that serve API communities are eligible to apply, but **priority will be given to organizational budgets smaller than \$300,000.**

AGC prioritizes initiatives that center the leadership and vision of impacted communities, including undocumented immigrants, people of color, low-income families, refugees, LGBTQ individuals, low-wage workers, Muslims, those who lack health care access, people with disabilities/disabled people, adoptees, youth, elders, women, and many more.

The following are the required criteria for organizations applying for AGC funds:

- Nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) status. Fiscal sponsors are allowable with accompanying



fiscal agent sponsor agreement.

- Note: If you are a group that does not meet these criteria but is interested in AGC grants and conducts work aligned with this RFP, please email us to learn more about fiscal sponsorship options that may be applicable to you.
- Organizations that serve and/or engage Asian American and Pacific Islander communities (including Filipino/a/x American, Southeast Asian American, South Asian American/Desi, Central Asian American, and East Asian American, West Asian, Native Hawaiians, Chamorro, Tongan, Samoan, etc.) in the Chicago Metropolitan Area (defined as Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, or Will Counties).
- All new and previously funded applicants are welcome to apply as long as they meet the above criteria. Groups that have not been funded more than once in the past three years are given preference. For 2021 grantee recipients applying for renewal, if the funds will support the continuation of last year's project, please submit a progress report (see LOI template).

The Asian Giving Circle funds cannot support: scholarships or fellowships; private or public educational institutions; religious organizations for religious purposes; political parties or political action committees; capital campaigns or endowments; hospitals; or government or municipal agencies.

Grant Application Process

In recognizing the time an application takes, we request a short LOI first in order to identify projects most aligned with our priorities to be invited to complete a full grant proposal.

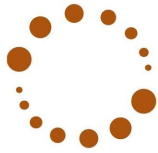
To be considered for a grant, please send a Letter of Intent (LOI) before midnight by May 16, 2022 to asiangivingcircle@gmail.com. See the next page for the LOI template. The LOI is meant to be a brief overview of how your project aligns with AGC priorities. Three to four pages for this overview works well; please do not exceed five pages.

The following documents must be submitted with the LOI:

- Verification of your organization's or fiscal agent's tax-exempt status (e.g., an IRS 501(c)(3) Determination Letter). If using a fiscal sponsor¹, please include a letter of agreement
- Most recent 990 Form (if using a fiscal sponsor's 990 Form, please also include the most recent fiscal year's Budget vs. Actuals for your organization)
- Current year's operating budget (including projected expenses and revenues)
- Proposed program/project budget (including projected expenses and revenues)

The AGC Grantmaking Committee (a group of volunteer AGC members) will review LOIs to determine

¹A fiscal sponsor acts as a guardian of grant funds, retains discretion and control over the use of grant funds, and ensures that the funds are used for 501(c)3 purposes. The fiscal sponsor and applicant's missions should be in alignment.



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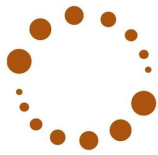


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eligibility and alignment with the 2022 funding priorities in June and July of 2022. Grants will be announced and awarded between August and September 2022.

For other questions, please contact us at asiangivingcircle@gmail.com. If you'd like to be included in an email list for updates and FAQs for this opportunity, please email asiangivingcircle@gmail.com.

In Community,
The Asian Giving Circle



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Asian Giving Circle 2022 Letter of Intent Template

Please include the below in your brief LOI narrative and submit it with the requested attachments to asiangivingcircle@gmail.com before midnight on May 16, 2022.

Three to four pages for an LOI works well; please do not exceed five pages.

Organization Name:

Address:

City, State:

Executive Director Contact (name and email):

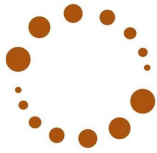
LOI/Application Lead Contact (name and email):

Supplemental Documents Checklist (see RFP for more details, especially for fiscally sponsored organizations):

- Verification of your organization's or fiscal agent's tax-exempt status
- Most recent 990 Form
- Current year's operating budget
- Proposed program/project budget

Organization and Project/Program Description

- I. **Overview of the Organization** (i.e., mission, vision, history, programming, how it is API-led)
- II. **Funding Amount Requested** (AGC typically provides grants between \$2,000 to \$8,000)
- III. **How does your organization use community organizing as a primary strategy to contribute to power-building, collective action/advocacy, and/or community change?**
- IV. **How would you like to use the funding to bolster resilience in your organization?**



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- V. If AGC is unable to fund or provide the full request grant amount for this Program/Project, what will happen to the Program/Project?

2021 Reflections

*This section is **only** for 2021 grantee recipients applying for grant renewals to support the continuation of their 2021 project/program.*

Please respond to the following questions:

- I. Please share at least 1-2 successes or stories of how the project/program benefited the community.
- II. What have been 1-2 significant learnings in the past year?
- III. In what ways did/will the program/project change in 2021 or 2022? If the program/project is remaining the same, please share why.