

HATE-FREE GRANT MAKING POLICY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



THE CHICAGO
COMMUNITY TRUST
EQUITY • OPPORTUNITY • PROSPERITY

WHAT IS THE CHICAGO COMMUNITY TRUST'S HATE-FREE GRANT MAKING POLICY?

In May 2022, The Chicago Community Trust adopted a Hate-Free Grant Making Policy. The policy implements due diligence procedures to ensure that nonprofits that engage in hateful activities are identified, and that donor advised fund grant recommendations to these organizations are declined.

WHY DID THE TRUST IMPLEMENT THIS POLICY?

Hateful activities are contrary to the Trust's social mission and its charitable purpose. Therefore, the Trust reserves the right to decline donor advised grants to charities that engage in these activities.

HOW DOES THE TRUST DEFINE "HATEFUL ACTIVITIES"?

The Trust defines "hateful activities" as activities that incite or engage in violence, intimidation, harassment, or otherwise attack and malign individuals or groups of individuals on the basis of perceived race, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, immigration status, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, and other protected class.

HOW DOES THE TRUST IDENTIFY ORGANIZATIONS THAT ENGAGE IN HATEFUL ACTIVITIES?

The Trust relies on extensive data compiled by the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) to determine if an organization meets the criteria for exclusion under our policy.

WHY DOES THE TRUST USE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER DATA TO IDENTIFY HATE ORGANIZATIONS?

The Southern Poverty Law Center is a nonprofit civil rights organization dedicated to fighting hate. The SPLC's team of analysts and researchers reviews and updates its well-respected list of active hate groups on an annual basis.

From the SPLC's website:

The Southern Poverty Law Center defines a hate group as an organization or collection of individuals that — based on its official statements or principles, the statements of its leaders, or its activities — has beliefs or practices that attack or malign an entire class of people, typically for their immutable characteristics. An organization does not need to have engaged in criminal conduct or have followed their speech with actual unlawful action to be labeled a hate group. We do not list individuals as hate groups, only organizations.

The organizations on our hate group list vilify others because of their race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation or gender identity — prejudices that strike at the heart of our democratic values and fracture society along its most fragile fault lines.

The FBI uses similar criteria in its definition of a hate crime.

DO OTHER COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS HAVE SIMILAR POLICIES?

Yes, a number of other community foundations across the country have developed and implemented policies to ensure grants are not made to charities identified as hate organizations.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A GRANT RECOMMENDATION IS DECLINED BASED ON THIS POLICY?

The fund advisor's philanthropic advisor will notify and advise the fund advisor as to why the recommended grant is being declined and offer to explore alternate methods for them to exercise their philanthropy. We remain committed to partnering with our donors and fund advisors to achieve their philanthropic goals. Please reach out to your philanthropic advisor with any additional questions about the policy.