



AGC Request for Proposals: Asian American Community Development Fund

The Asian Giving Circle (AGC) is pleased to announce a special Request for Proposals (RFP). This document outlines the background on the initiative and (a) the priority funding areas 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, comprising 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.

Background on the Initiative

The Asian American Community Development Fund (AACDF) is a special initiative of AGC that aims to support and empower API communities in Chicago through grants, advocacy, and capacity building. AACDF recognizes the diversity and resilience of Asian American communities, as well as the challenges and opportunities they face in the areas of community and economic development. The opportunity is made possible through a [generous grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation](#) to advance community and economic development in API communities as part of its Chicago Commitment.

Purpose

The purpose of this request for proposals (RFP) is to solicit applications from eligible organizations that are working to address the needs and priorities of API communities in Chicago, especially youth, older adults, women, and transgender communities. AACDF seeks to fund innovative and collaborative projects that promote community engagement, intergenerational dialogue, allyship across other marginalized communities, social justice, and economic empowerment. The fund will support both **planning** and **implementation grants**.

Funding Availability and Duration

AACDF has a three year time frame. A total of \$115,000 is available for this grant cycle. There is a potential for grants to be renewed for two additional years. The maximum grant amount per project is \$25,000 for this grant cycle. The grant period is 12 months, starting from October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024. AACDF expects to fund 4 to 5 projects in this cycle.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for this grant opportunity, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be a nonprofit organization with 501(c)(3) status or have a fiscal sponsor with such status.
- Have a mission and vision that aligns with AGC's goals and values.
- Have a track record of serving API communities in the Chicago metropolitan region or demonstrate the potential to do so.
- Have a clear and feasible project plan that addresses one or more of the following areas: community engagement, intergenerational understanding, racial justice, or economic empowerment.
- Have a realistic and reasonable budget that reflects the project's scope and objectives.
- Demonstrate collaboration and allyship with other organizations or groups that share similar goals or serve other marginalized populations. The fund will prioritize such collaborations and partnerships.

Application Process and Timeline

Applicants must submit their proposals online through The Chicago Community Trust's Grants Management System¹ by **August 15, 2023**. The online application form will require the following information:

¹ Applicants must complete their application via GrantCentral. To access an application, grant seekers must log into GrantCentral at <https://community-cct.force.com/grantcentral/login>.

- Completion of an Organization Profile²
- Project title, summary, goals, objectives, activities, timeline, expected outcomes, and evaluation plan.
- Project budget and budget narrative.
- List of project partners and their roles and contributions.

AACDF will review the proposals and notify the applicants of their status by September 25, 2023. AACDF may request additional information or clarification from the applicants during the review process. AACDF will announce the final grant awards by October 1, 2023.

Reporting Requirements

AACDF will convene grantees at least twice during the grant period to share lessons, learnings and challenges.

Grantees will be required to submit a final report by October 31, 2024. The reports may be used to provide funding for year 2 of the project. The reports should include the following information:

- A narrative summary of the project's progress, achievements, challenges, lessons learned, and recommendations for improvement. Planning grants should provide the project plan including an implementation timeline.
- A financial report that shows how the grant funds were spent and any variances from the original budget.
- Information on project participants and beneficiaries with demographic data (such as age, gender, ethnicity, etc.).
- A description of any changes or modifications to the project plan or budget that occurred during the grant period.
- Any supporting documents or materials that showcase the project's impact or success (such as photos, videos, testimonials, media coverage, etc.).

² All new 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, 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://community-cct.force.com/grantcentral/login> prior to application submission. An MOU confirming the project's relationship with the fiscal sponsor is also required as part of the grant application.

Contact Information

For any questions or inquiries regarding this RFP, please contact K Sujata, AACDF Program Consultant, at sujata@ksujata.org.

For questions or inquiries regarding the online grants management system, please contact The Chicago Community Trust's grants management team at grants@cct.org.