LGBTQ Community Fund
2023 Request for Proposals
Focus Areas: Housing and Health/Mental Health

Timeline

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<th>Event</th>
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<td>RFP Release Date</td>
<td>Monday, August 7, 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information Session</td>
<td>Tuesday, August 15, 2023 at 1 PM Central</td>
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<td>(Virtual: Zoom)</td>
<td><a href="#">Register here</a></td>
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<td>Application Deadline</td>
<td>Thursday, September 7, 2023</td>
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<td>Site Visits</td>
<td>October 16 – November 3</td>
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<td>Funding Decisions</td>
<td>Mid-November 2023</td>
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Background

LGBTQ Community Fund Grants are designed for a wide variety of projects that respond to identified community needs.

As the Fund enters its second decade of grantmaking, it will be making annual grants for projects, operating support, and seed monies each fall, from 2022 to 2024. This advance planning has been made possible, in part, by the generosity of our donors. Below are the specific focus areas for grantmaking each year:

- 2022: Community Safety and Employment
- 2023: Housing and Health/Mental Health
- 2024: Organizations with budgets less than $2 million, with an emphasis on youth, seniors, and art programs that demonstrate connectivity to one of the four focus areas identified in the [2019 LGBT Fund Community Needs Assessment](#).

Support may be provided for specific projects, general operating support, or for project seed money. Grants will range from $10,000 to $50,000, and the Fund will award up to $400,000 in grants annually. Applicants are encouraged to demonstrate collaboration as feasible: collaboration is encouraged but not required.
Proposals must demonstrate the following:

- Alignment with identified focus area from the RFP
- How the project addresses an identified community need
- How the project will impact the issue it addresses
- A credible plan for realistic goal measurement
- How the project will reach traditionally underserved communities

2023 Focus Areas

2023 proposals must demonstrate the applicant’s commitment to the health and well-being of LGBTQ communities in the Chicago region. Specifically, the Fund seeks to support innovative initiatives that focus on one or more of the following priority areas:

- **Housing:** Proposals that address housing insecurity and homelessness in LGBTQ communities by supporting access to safe, affordable housing, including but not limited to case management, advocacy services, provider trainings, and renter literacy. Grants may not be used for capital campaigns or improvements.

- **Health:** Proposals that support high-quality, affordable, culturally responsive, comprehensive healthcare for LGBTQ individuals, including sliding scale services, education on substance misuse, healthcare navigation support, and services geared towards LGBTQ medical issues such as HIV testing, PrEP medication support, gender affirming care, and reproductive health support.

- **Mental Health:** Proposals that support high-quality, affordable, culturally responsive mental healthcare for LGBTQ individuals, including but not limited to therapeutic affinity groups, art therapy, and provider trainings.

- **Intersectionality:** Priority will be given to proposals that address the compounded effects of multiple (or intersecting) systems of oppression experienced by those holding multiple marginalized identities within the LGBTQ community (i.e. heterosexism and racism, heterosexism and ableism, heterosexism and cis-sexism, etc.).

- **Inequities:** Priority will be given to proposals focused on serving historically marginalized and underserved groups within the LGBTQ community, including older adults, people living with disabilities, youth, trans and gender non-conforming people, People of Color, and women/femmes.

Please refer to the [2019 LGBT Fund Community Needs Assessment](#) for more details on each focus area.
Eligible Applicants
To be eligible for funding from the LGBTQ Community Fund, the applicants must demonstrate the following:

- That it is a 501(c)(3) public charity in good standing in the state of IL.
- That it serves the LGBTQ community of the Chicago Metro area, which includes Chicago, suburban Cook County, and the Illinois counties of DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will. LGBTQ is broadly defined as including questioning individuals.
- That grant funds will be used in one year. Multi-year funding is not supported.
- 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.
- 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 prior to the sponsored organization's application submission.

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

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy
The Trust asks that grant seekers provide demographic data on board and staff as well as clients/beneficiaries of programs and services as part of their Organizational Profile. 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.

Application process
Applicants must complete their application for the “LGBTQ Community Fund – Nov 2023” funding opportunity via GrantCentral, The Chicago Community Trust’s online grants management system, at https://community-cct.force.com/grantcentral/.
The application process includes the following:

- Completion of an Organizational Profile. (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 grant submission.)
- Completion of a short application with a summary of the support requested and how that request fits into the current RFP.

**Contact Information**
For technical assistant regarding GrantCentral, please contact grants@cct.org. How-to guides and other helpful information are available at https://www.cct.org/grants/how-to-apply.

For programmatic and application content questions, please email lgbtq@cct.org
Frequently Asked Questions

1. Does the program/project have to be an existing project, or can it be a new/proposed project?
   *The project can be existing or new; the key is that it addresses the published focus areas.*

2. Are ongoing projects eligible?
   *Yes, so long as they address the focus areas and other grant eligibility requirements.*

3. What is the range of grant awards?
   *The award amounts will range from $10,000 to $50,000.*

4. Is there a certain population or geographic focus?
   *Funding will focus on projects serving LGBTQ residents in the Chicago Metro area, which includes Chicago, suburban Cook County, and the Illinois counties of DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will.*

5. Will priority be given to collaborative projects?
   *We do encourage collaboration if the focus of the collaboration aligns with the expertise, community needs, and the focus areas we have identified for funding.*

6. May organizations jointly apply for a grant?
   *Yes, but only one application is necessary. We ask that one organization take the lead on the administration of the grant as the lead fiscal agent.*

7. Are existing coalitions eligible? Can an organization apply on behalf of an existing coalition, or can an organization create a new coalition?
   *Yes, an organization can apply on behalf of a coalition so long as there is a lead agency for the coalition.*

8. If my organization already receives funding from The Chicago Community Trust, are we still eligible to apply?
   *Yes. Please share that information in your application.*

9. Does the Steering Committee look at impact (number of individuals served) when evaluating grant applications?
Impact is one of several factors considered in the review process. Please detail the desired impact and/or demonstrate the impact for existing programs.

10. Does receiving an award in a specific year preclude an organization from seeking funding the following year?
   No it does not: all organizations are eligible to apply. Please see the cadence of grant focus areas for 2022 – 2024. Receiving an award will not preclude you from applying again, but priority will be given to applicants who demonstrate need in the published focus areas for that year.

11. If our organization applies, but does not receive an award during the current year, are we eligible to apply/receive an award in a subsequent year?
   Yes, you are eligible to apply for funding in subsequent years should you meet the focus area requirements. Please note: a goal of the Fund is to support a broad range of work in the community; larger organizations that may fall into all the focus areas are encouraged to be selective and focus on the need.

12. What do you mean by “intersectionality?”
   As defined by Black legal scholar and critical race theorist Kimberlé Crenshaw, intersectionality refers to the compounded effects of multiple systems of power/oppression experienced by individuals holding multiple marginalized identities. Intersectionality acknowledges that even within groups of people with a shared identity, intragroup differences exist because of the differing impact of overlapping oppressions. (Please see pp. 25-26 of the 2019 LGBT Fund Community Needs Assessment for more details.)

13. Is there a word or character count for the narrative questions on the application?
   There is not a word count or character limit for the application questions. We do recommend being as brief as possible in your responses.