



ASIAN GIVING CIRCLE
AN INITIATIVE of



THE CHICAGO
COMMUNITY TRUST®
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May 2024

Dear Friends:

[The Asian Giving Circle \(AGC\)](#) is pleased to announce our **20th 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 for this RFP cycle 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 (API) nonprofits in the Chicago region. 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 \$800,000 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 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.

2024 Request For Proposals

In 2024, AGC is requesting general operating proposals from API organizations in the Chicago metropolitan region (which includes the city of Chicago as well as Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties).

While there are no specific funding areas for this RFP cycle, priority will be given to proposals that meet any to all of the following criteria:

- Applicant has an operating budget of less than \$500,000.
- Applicant is meeting an identified community need that is not being addressed by other organizations, or is working in partnership with other organizations.
- Applicant meaningfully centers the leadership and vision of the API community in their

structure, operations, and programming.

- Applicant is serving historically marginalized and underserved groups within the API community, which includes but is not limited to undocumented immigrants, low-income families and low-wage workers, refugees, LGBTQIA individuals, Muslims, those who lack healthcare access, people with disabilities, adoptees, youth, elders, and women/femmes.
- Applicant provides a creative/innovative program or service, is piloting a new/experimental idea that requires an initial seed investment, or is new to AGC's grant making portfolio.

Grant Amounts Available and Grant Term

In 2024, AGC will be making ten(10) 1-year general operating grants of \$10,000 each.

Eligible Organizations

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

- Organizations that serve and/or engage Asian American and Pacific Islander communities, which includes 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.
- Organizations that operate in the Chicago metropolitan region, which includes the city of Chicago as well as Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties.
- Nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) status. Organizations with fiscal sponsors are allowable with accompanying fiscal agent sponsor agreement.

Ineligible Uses

AGC grants cannot be used for: capital campaigns or improvements; endowments; fundraising events; political parties or political action committees; scholarships or fellowships; private or public educational institutions; religious organizations for religious purposes; hospitals; government or municipal agencies; or to support individuals.

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.

Grant Application Process

In recognition of the time an application takes, we request that to be considered you complete a short application for the "Asian Giving Circle -September 2024" funding program via GrantCentral, The Chicago Community Trust's grants portal. To access an application, grant

seekers must log into GrantCentral at <https://community-cct.force.com/grantcentral/login>.

All applicants must complete an Organization Profile, which is on the last tab within their GrantCentral account, as part of the application process. 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.

To be considered for a grant, please apply by 11:59 PM Central on Tuesday, June 18, 2024.

The AGC Grantmaking Committee (a group of volunteer AGC members) will review applications from mid-June through early August. Grants will be expected to be announced and awarded by September 2024.

Key Dates

RFP release	Monday, May 13
Info Session	Wednesday, May 29 at 3 PM Central via Zoom Register here
RFP deadline	Tuesday, June 18 2024 at 11:59 PM Central
Award notification	September 2024

Contact

For questions on this RFP, please contact us at agc@cct.org. For technical assistance, including issues with GrantCentral, please reach out to the Trust's Grants Management Team at grants@cct.org.

In Community,
The Asian Giving Circle