

Request For Proposals: 2025 Asian Giving Circle

Dear Friends:

[The Asian Giving Circle \(AGC\)](#) is pleased to announce our **21st 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.

Key Dates

RFP release	Tuesday, May 6, 2025
Info Session	Wednesday, May 14, 2025 at 11 AM Central via Zoom. Register here.
RFP deadline	Tuesday, June 17, 2025 at 11:59 PM Central
Award notification	September 2025

Background

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 being 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 supports organizations that serve the API community 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.

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 2025.

Priority strategies and activities

In 2025, 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).

Grantmaking criteria

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 incorporates the vision and voice of the API community in their structure, operations, or 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 2025, AGC will be making ten (10) 1-year general operating grants of \$10,000 each.

Eligible Organizations

To be eligible for a grant award, an applicant must be:

- Serving and/or engaging Asian and Pacific Islander (API) 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.
- A nonprofit organization with evidence that:
 - it has been recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code ("the Code"); or
 - is fiscally sponsored by a Section 501(c)(3) organization; or
 - is a governmental unit within the meaning of Section 170(c)(1) of the Code.
- Described in Section 170(b)(1)(A) of the Code, other than a "disqualified supporting organization" within the meaning of Section 4966(d)(4) of the Code; and
- Located within or primarily serving residents of the Chicago metropolitan region, which includes Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry and/or Will Counties, Illinois.

Ineligible Uses

Grant funds shall not be used for:

- Electioneering or political activities
- Contributions to any candidate for public office or political committee
- Campaigning on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office
- Grants to individuals

Collection of Demographic Data

The Chicago Community Trust serves a wide variety of constituents and organizations and believes in the value of diversity. As such, we collect organizational demographic data and semi-regularly review the data to inform our outreach and representation of our funding to ensure we are

contributing to our mission of a thriving, equitable, and connected Chicago region. We also ask that you share with us the demographics of your organization's board, leadership, and staff. The data collected are not criteria used for funding. The demographic composition of The Trust staff and board is available on our website [here](#).

Application Process

Applicants complete their application via GrantCentral, The Chicago Community Trust's online grants management system, at <https://community-cct.force.com/grantcentral/s/login/>.

Applicants must complete and certify an Organization Profile before applying. If the Profile was completed for a previous funding opportunity, it must be reviewed, updated and certified before submitting a new application. If applicable, fiscal sponsors must also complete and certify an organization profile in GrantCentral before the grant seeker submits an application.

Late or incomplete applications will not be considered for review. Applicants may receive a site visit (in person or virtual), telephone call, or other communication from foundation staff and AAL leadership as part of the application review process.

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