

## LGBTQ Community Fund 2025 Request for Proposals

### Timeline

RFP Release Date	Tuesday, July 29, 2025
Information Session (Virtual: Zoom)	August 7, 2025 at 4 PM Central <a href="#">Register here.</a>
Application Deadline	Tuesday, August 26, 2025 at 11:59 PM Central
Site Visits	October 14 - October 31, 2025
Funding Decisions	Late November 2025
Award Notification	Mid December 2025

### Background

The LGBTQ Community Fund, an initiative of The Chicago Community Trust, was founded in 2010 with the commitment to advance the Chicago region's LGBTQ community through research, connection, and focused grantmaking. LGBTQ Community Fund grants are designed to support organizations and projects that respond to identified LGBTQ community needs, and uplift and empower LGBTQ leaders and communities.

### Priority strategies and activities

For 2025, the Fund seeks to support organizations focusing on serving and meeting the unique needs of **LGBTQ youth and/or seniors**.

- **General operating grants** will be available for new or previous grant partners of the Fund with annual operating budgets **under \$3.5 million**.
- **Project-specific renewal grants** will be available for organizations with operating budgets **exceeding \$3.5 million** that received an award from the Fund **within the past three years** (i.e. since 2022), provided the previously awarded project is ongoing, expanding, or exploring sustainability strategies.

### Grantmaking Criteria

Applicants will be asked to demonstrate alignment with the RFP Focus Areas defined above and demonstrate a commitment to working with LGBTQ communities, including meaningfully incorporating the vision and voice of LGBTQ communities in their structure, operations, or programming.

Proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Alignment with LGBTQ Community Fund's mission and identified focus area from the RFP
- Commitment to and proficiency in serving LGBTQ communities and supporting LGBTQ leadership
- How the organization addresses an unmet community need

- Focus on serving historically marginalized and underserved groups within the LGBTQ+ community
- Ability to demonstrate impact
- Organizational health and sustainability

### ***Grant Amounts Available and Term***

For 2025, grants may be requested for general operating support or project support, as outlined above. Grants will generally range from \$20,000 to \$40,000 and the Fund will award up to \$500,000 in grants. The grant term is one year.

### ***Eligible Applicants***

To be eligible for funding from the LGBTQ Community Fund, an applicant must be:

- Serving and/or engaging LGBTQ communities, including trans and gender non-conforming (TGNC) communities\*
- 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 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 area, which includes Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and/or Will counties, Illinois.

*\*We expect that organizations we work with to comply with all anti-discrimination laws.*

Applicants without 501(c)(3) status must identify a fiscal sponsor before applying and ask that sponsor to complete and certify an organization profile in The Chicago Community Trust’s grants management system, GrantCentral, at <https://trust360.my.site.com/grantcentral/s/>.

### ***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 DEI Demographic Data***

The Chicago Community Trust serves a wide variety of constituents and organizations. 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 Chicago region. 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://trust360.my.site.com/grantcentral/s/>.

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 LGBTQ Community Fund leadership as part of the application review process.

**Contact Information**

For technical assistance regarding GrantCentral, please contact [grants@cct.org](mailto: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](mailto:lgbtq@cct.org).