

2022

Community Learning Grants Request for Proposals Guidelines

Group Health Foundation is enthusiastically supporting a growing number of organizations across Washington state that are working to bring about true equity: real change that transforms the balance of power in our state and beyond. Through their work, we are learning how equity is defined by people throughout the state, what approaches organizations are taking to advance it, and how we can support solutions that dismantle inequities and foster community well-being.

The Foundation will award up to \$17 million in grants through this open call for proposals, with an application that encourages organizations to share their mission, leadership, and aspirations for their community. We expect to reward 70 to 80 organizations with grants. Each grant is a three-year commitment, and award amounts will range from \$150,000 to \$225,000 in total funding (\$50,000 to \$75,000 per year).

Community Learning Grants are three-year awards of core-support funding. Organizations often call this “general operating support.” Groups that are fiscally sponsored by another entity can also receive core-support grants. In those cases, it means that the funding (a) is restricted to a named, sponsored

project and (b) can be used for any part of the project's expenses and work.

Funding Priorities

We seek to support organizations that are shifting the balance of power toward racial justice and equity in Washington state. Our funding prioritizes organizations and fiscally sponsored projects that:

- . Have been overlooked by—or have had limited access to—philanthropy and foundations. We are also interested in work that has not been supported by multi-year and flexible funding. “Newer” and “smaller” organizations are encouraged to apply, as are those whose**

communities have seen very little funding from philanthropy.

- Are founded, led, and governed by people who reflect their communities. We specifically assess if and how a group's board, chief executive, and staff leadership—or volunteer leadership for those without paid staff—reflect the people the organization serves.**
- Represent a place- and/or identity-based community who is most adversely impacted by inequitable and racist policies. We seek to fund work by and for Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color; queer, transgender, and gender-nonconforming people; people with disabilities; immigrants; people living with low incomes; people who are involved with the**

justice system; and especially people who hold several of these identities.

- . Are pursuing community-powered work. As long as it advances racial justice and equity in Washington, the work can be community organizing, mobilizing people and organizations, developing leaders, reclaiming cultural practices, fostering connection, leading anti-racism efforts, or the many other ways communities express and build power.**
- . Are determined to change current structures and who has access to social, political, and economic power. We are interested in how organizations are working to challenge white**

supremacy and systems that have excluded or oppressed their communities.

Additional information: what we are *unlikely* to support with Community Learning Grants. The Foundation generally does not support the following with Community Learning Grants:

- **Organizations and fiscally sponsored projects that have significant financial assets and philanthropic revenue from foundations and private donors.**
- **Organizations whose primary work is to provide services or interventions without longer term**

engagement or leadership of community members.

- **Philanthropy-serving organizations, funder collaboratives, and community-of-interest funds (including those hosted by charitable organizations and research institutions).**
- **Partisan efforts or candidate electioneering, regardless of party affiliation.**
- **Scholarship funds.**
- **Specific departments, pilot projects, or some component part of larger organizations (note: this is distinct from fiscally sponsored projects).**

- **Friends-of, fans-of, and supporters-of groups affiliated with sports teams, schools, or large institutions.**

Community Learning Grants do not support individuals (e.g., scholarships and fellowships), LLCs, partnerships, or similar businesses, or organizations who do not primarily serve people in and immediately surrounding Washington.

How to apply

To apply for a Community Learning Grant, submit a funding proposal no later than 5:00 p.m. PDT on Thursday, April 7, 2022. The proposal will help us learn about your organization's vision, values, goals, community, structure, and partners.

The preferred method for submitting your application is through our online application form (hyperlinked). If the online application doesn't work for you, you are also welcome to submit your application via email to grants@grouphealthfoundation.org, using a template available on our website (hyperlinked).

Please note that the online application form does allow you to begin your application, save your work, and return to it later.

The Foundation will notify grant recipients of awards and send out grant agreement letters in July. If we have questions, updates, or other follow-up items for applicants during the proposal review period (April, May, and June), we will reach out to the contact person listed in the grant application.

Accessibility

Group Health Foundation strives to make this process widely available to disabled people, people who communicate in languages other than English, and organizations new to working with philanthropy or funders. We have been working with groups around Washington to understand different types of needs that may come up. Based on that learning, the following documents are publicly available on our [website \(hyperlinked\)](#):

- **Proposal Guidelines:**
 - **English**
 - **Large-print format in English**
 - **Spanish**

- **Funding Proposal:**

- **English**
- **Large-print format in English**
- **Spanish**

In addition, we will provide upon request:

- **Interpretation and translation services for all application materials and instructions in any language needed.**
- **Alternative application methods, including over the phone, by video or voice recording,**

and on paper (as opposed to digital submission).

- **Support from a contracted grant writer.**

Contact us at grants@grouphealthfoundation.org or 866.389.5532 to tell us what you need and how we can improve. We know it takes time, trust, and effort to make these requests of the Foundation. Thank you for your willingness to share how we can make this process work for you.

Frequently Asked Questions

The Foundation is committed to providing clear communication about the proposal process, answers to important questions, and updates. We also recognize that interested organizations may have additional questions.

Please check our [website](#) (hyperlinked) for information and Frequently Asked Questions that will be updated regularly based on common questions we receive. We have also scheduled two information sessions on Wednesday, March 16, 2022 and Thursday, March 31, 2022 for interested organizations to learn more about the proposal process and connect with Foundation staff.

More information is available [on our website here](#) (hyperlinked).

Given the small size of our team, we are not usually able to speak with applicants prior to a deadline. We do not review applications prior to submission. We expect to prioritize direct discussions with people and organizations that:

- Communicate in languages other than English and have interpretation needs.**
- Don't have access to a good internet connection and may want to submit applications in alternative ways (for example, by phone or on paper).**
- Would benefit from grant writing support.**

- **Have disability access needs that require specific support.**
- **Are newer to working with foundations and funders like Group Health Foundation.**

If you have specific questions that are not answered through the website or addressed during our information sessions, please contact us at grants@grouphealthfoundation.org or 866.389.5532. We will acknowledge and respond to all inquiries as quickly as we can.

Appendix: Fiscal Sponsorship

Definition

Fiscal sponsorship is a legal arrangement between two organizations that allows one organization (who doesn't have its own nonprofit tax status) to use the nonprofit tax status of another organization in order to raise money and manage work. Specifically,

- a fiscal sponsor or sponsoring organization agrees to provide its tax-status and other services to**

- **a fiscally-sponsored project, a group that is using the fiscal sponsor's nonprofit tax status to request funding and to accept the financial and legal responsibilities of grant agreements. The sponsored project usually has a distinct name, identity, staff and/or volunteer leader, as well as a separate advisory board or steering committee that guides the project's work.**

(Our thanks to Candid (hyperlinked) for help with these definitions.)

When applying for Community Learning Grants, fiscal sponsors must be able to provide documents that clearly define the differing roles and responsibilities of the fiscal sponsor (e.g., their legal, administrative, and financial oversight) versus the sponsored project (e.g., ability to exercise reasonable independence in programs and priorities). The fiscal sponsor must have the ability to produce separate financial statements and reports for each project that applies for funding.