Community Change

2022 Guidelines

Eligibility

- It's easiest for us to accept grant applications from:
    - Not-for-profit organizations with a 501(c)(3) designation that are not private foundations;
    - Not-for-profit public benefit corporations;
    - Public or diocesan school districts; or
    - Private or charter schools.
- We will be making grants to organizations currently providing services in one or more of these regions:
    - Massachusetts: Barnstable County, Dukes County, Essex County, Nantucket County
    - New York: Erie County, Niagara County
- At a minimum, grant partners currently provide prevention, treatment, and/or recovery services to people aged 26 years or younger from at least one of these populations:
    - People with intellectual disabilities (including autism spectrum disorders)
    - People with specific learning disabilities
    - People with mental illness/mental health challenges
    - People with substance use disorders
- Our ideal grant partners serve one or more of the populations listed above and intentionally work to improve equitable outcomes for individuals with a host of individual identities relating to — alone or in combination – race, sexual identity, gender identity, immigration status, housing status, and other disability status.

Funding Availability

The Foundation has allocated a total of $1.45 million for its 2022 Community Change portfolio, with preliminary applications accepted in two grant cycles. While all Community Change grants must support work within the regions in which the Foundation funds and benefit one or more of the populations it serves, there is no pre-defined allocation of funds to any of its geographies or funding categories.

There is no set amount or cap for Community Change grant awards. Owing to their community-wide or systems-level focus, Community Change grants may be larger than those seen through the Foundation's Programs & Services portfolio (which typically range from $15,000 to $50,000 per year). We are most interested in establishing a level of support appropriate to the work's scope and duration.

Application Timeline

	Spring Cycle	Fall Cycle
Preliminary Grant Requests Due	Wednesday, March 2, 2022	Wednesday, August 3, 2022

Once submitted, the Foundation reviews each application to determine whether it wishes to explore the opportunity further through a phone call or meeting. Applicants will be notified by email approximately three weeks after submitting their preliminary grant request as to whether the Foundation will invite further discussion. Further discussion is not an indication of likely support. There is no specific time line for development or award of Community Change grants, as projects vary in their scope and readiness for funding.

What We're Most Interested in Funding

The Foundation is interested in funding requests that support communities in establishing accessible, holistic, integrated, collaborative services benefitting children, adolescents, and young adults affected by intellectual disabilities, learning disabilities, mental illness, and/or substance use disorders.

Community Change grants often support multi-year efforts and generally feature collaborative work intended to effect community-wide and/or systems-level change (e.g., efforts to eliminate structural barriers preventing the Foundation's populations of interest from accessing services). **Requests to create or expand programs operated or managed by a single agency are more appropriate for the Foundation's Programs & Services grant portfolio**.

The Tower Foundation allows organizations to apply an **administrative overhead rate** of 15% on grant requests over $100,000, and 20% for requests of $100,000 or less. The administrative overhead rate for colleges, universities, and affiliated organizations is capped at 10%.

How to Apply

- Most of our grant requests come in through the Foundation's grants portal. If you don't need any sort of special consideration (see below), please submit your application here: *https://thetowerfoundation.force.com*
- For any of the following situations, please get in touch with a Program Officer to discuss your circumstances:
  - We are happy to take applications in non-written formats (e.g., video, audio). Nothing highly produced, though – keep it simple (but make sure you have good sound quality!).
  - Not one of the organization types listed above? No problem. We'll take proposals from groups or organizations that do not have non-profit status as long as they apply through a fiscal sponsor.
  - We are open to accepting proposals written for other funders.

PETER & ELIZABETH **TOWER FOUNDATION**

How to Contact Us

If you have any questions that aren't covered in these guidelines, you'd like to discuss a special circumstance, or you want to see whether an idea you have for a grant is a good fit for the Foundation, please get in touch with one of our Program Officers.

- Schedule a phone call: https://calendly.com/towerfdn-program
- Send us an email: info@thetowerfoundation.org