

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT COMPETITIVE GRANT OPPORTUNITIES 2024

Updated August 2024



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FALL 2024 CYCLE

APPLICATION PROCESS	OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE	INFO SESSION WEBINAR
Step1 – Organizational Profile	July 29, 2024	August 19, 2024	Webinar recording Presentation
Step 2 – Competitive Grant Application Questions	August 30, 2024	September 20, 2024	

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED ON THE GRANT PORTAL by 11:59 PM ON THE CLOSING DATE

GRANT AWARD AMOUNTS

GRANT	AMOUNT
ADVOCACY	UP TO \$30,000
DIRECT SERVICE	UP TO \$30,000
FORMAN	UP TO \$40,000
FUND FOR CHILDREN	UP TO \$40,000
GSK IMPACT	\$50,000
HENRIETTA TOWER WURTS	UP TO \$5,000
IMPACT	UP TO \$30,000
LEADERSHIP	UP TO \$50,000

ELIGIBILITY

Can we apply for more than one type of grant at the same time?

You can only apply for one competitive grant category (Advocacy, Direct Service, Fund for Children, Impact and Literacy) and any open Special Initiatives.

Is there an eligibility cap for organization budget size?

Organizational budgets should be between \$100,000 and 10 million dollars. You can ask the Director of Grants and Programs to discuss an exemption if you are over the 10-million-dollar budget grant size.

Do familial relationships count for volunteers?

If the volunteer position is on the Board and they are related to any paid staff, then there is a conflict of interest, and the organization is not eligible. Other volunteers assisting you without pay to accomplish your mission do not follow these criteria.

Is the Executive Summary of the Strategic plan only for organizations operating 3 years or fewer or do all organizations have to include with application?

We only require a Strategic Plan/Theory of Change Document for new organizations (operating under 3 years). Other organizations can upload those documents voluntarily if they want but they are not required

Does it cost anything to use CATCHAFIRE?

We sponsor organizations at no cost to them.

We were fortunate to receive a grant in the Spring of 2024. Will we be eligible to apply for this Fall's opportunity or should we wait until Spring 2025?

You will need to wait until Spring 2025 to apply for a competitive grant. You can, however, apply for any Special Initiative grants such as the Henrietta Tower Wurtz Memorial or Black Community Leader Grants if you are eligible.

Unfortunately, we did not receive a competitive grant in the Spring of 2024. Will we be eligible to apply again this Fall?

You will need to wait until Spring 2025 to apply for a competitive grant. You can, however, apply for any Special Initiative grants such as the Henrietta Tower Wurtz Memorial or Black Community Leader Grants if you are eligible.

The Forman Family fund is for Greater Philadelphia -- that means nonprofits in Camden, New Jersey, can apply?

Sorry, only the 5 counties in PA.

Are organizations still eligible if 70% of program participants are low-income (but the organization at large serves less than 70% of low-income folks)?

Yes, however your organization's application may be less competitive. If a program is population specific, we will take that into consideration when reviewing the application.

If we are run primarily by volunteers, are we ineligible? Some are paid staff (driver, cleaner, etc.) but officers only get a small stipend.

You must demonstrate at least one full-time employee or 2 part-time staff members to be eligible for a competitive grant. Otherwise, you may be eligible for Henrietta Tower Wurts Memorial Grants but not a competitive grant.

If our operational budget is more than \$5M, can we still apply for grants?

Yes. If an organization's budget is greater than \$5M, you may apply for all grants except Henrietta Tower Wurts Memorial Grants (budget cannot exceed \$2.5M) and GSK (budget cannot exceed \$5M)

If we are a unit at a 501c3 university that raises all our own funds, runs community-facing programming, and do NOT do academic or administrative work - would we be eligible?

Yes, the organization may still be eligible. However, you should reach out to a program officer to discuss the specifics.

Would a hospital/system (not serving pediatrics) be best suited for a direct service or impact grant?

Hospitals/systems unfortunately do not meet the criteria for our grants.

We are a Community College with a non-profit 501c3 and take on a litany of community problems. I want to know if we are eligible to apply for any of the grants listed.

Please email grantmakingservices@philafound.org to speak with a Program Officer and provide more information.

We are a private, Catholic, career and technical high school in the city. Given that one of the ineligibility points was schools (K-12), are we eligible for any of the grants?

Unfortunately, you are not eligible for our grantmaking, but could fill out the Donor Advised Fund organizational form.

So, if my organization does not serve 70% or more low income then we cannot apply for any competitive grants, correct? But we can do the one-pager for DAF inclusion? and CatchAFire?

Yes, that is correct. You will need to wait until Spring 2025 to apply for a competitive grant.

GRANTS SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

For donor advised funds, are the one pagers automated in your system so a possible match between donor and non-profit is facilitated?

No, the Donor Advised team staff make those connections.

DIRECT SERVICE

Direct Service grants are awarded to organizations who received past funding. We received a grant in 2020 - does that qualify?

Giving in 2020 was directed more towards basic needs and emergency pandemic relief and not our current portfolio focus. A grant award in 2019 or from 2021 will be most competitive. Please request a meeting if not funded in one of those years.

What if we are in between strategic plans?

Organizations wanting to apply for Direct Services should have completed some shared planning since 2020. Examples of processes to update goals and/or gather stakeholder input should be cited, as well as anticipated timing of more robust planning.

Is the Anti-Violence grant ONLY for addiction-based violence?

The current cycle of Forfeiture grants is focused only on prevention or recovery from addiction. Future cycles will focus on additional elements of community safety and wellbeing. There will be multiple cycles throughout the year, each with a different topical focus.

FUND FOR CHILDREN

Does the Fund for Children require 1 FT staff member?

Yes.

Our nonprofit manages five Pre-K through 8th grade Catholic schools in the city of Camden. Are we eligible for any of these grants?

Unfortunately, you are not. Schools are ineligible.

If we have a grant for Fund for Children but it began in Sept 2023, so we can wait for the fall to apply, correct? We just don't want to miss the deadline with the new application process. Assuming it will open up in the fall as it is in the spring?

Yes, you should wait until Fall 2024.

I work with children in Philadelphia, is my organization qualified if we are located Cheltenham?

That depends, the Fund for Children provides grants to organizations who serve children 0-18 years old in PHILADELPHIA only.

BROOK J. LENFEST FOUNDATION

Can you please show the Lenfest deadlines again?

We anticipate that the Brook J. Lenfest Foundation application will open in March, but there is not yet a date.

FORMAN FAMILY

If we received 2023 Forman Family Fund in 2023, can we re-apply for 2024? I think the deadline for Forman Family Fund is March 1, 2024.

Yes. Organizations may apply every year. However, March 1 is only the deadline for the organizational profile - if you submit that and are approved to apply to the Forman Fund, you will receive a customized link by March 8th to answer additional questions due March 29th.

GSK IMPACT

Are the GSK IMPACT grants separate from any other grants they offer through the STEM Equity Collective in Philly?

Yes, this is a separate process, we will help you walk through it if you find you eligible.

Are GSK Impact and Impact Competitive Grants the same thing?

No. Impact is a category of Philadelphia Foundation's competitive grants - sorry, we know it is confusing. GSK IMPACT is a special initiative. They are different types of awards.

HENRIETTA TOWER WURTS MEMORIAL

Does consecutive year refer to a fiscal year or calendar year for Henrietta Tower Wurts?

Three consecutive calendar years, then sit out for one year and come apply again the following year. We count the year in which we award the grant as the year, so receiving a grant in 201, 2022 and 2023 would make an organization ineligible this year. If you still are not sure, email grantmakingservices@philafound.org.

If our budget is under \$100k, do we still apply to the Henrietta fund through the general competitive grant application? Or is there a way to apply directly to that fund?

The Common Competitive Application is the way to apply to Henrietta even if your budget is under \$100K.

IMPACT

I want to start a new transitional home for children who are in foster care. I am connected to a non-profit who will be part of starting the program. Can you let me know if we can apply and if so, where do we start?

The application could come from the nonprofit - but please review the guidelines which are very narrow regarding funding pilot programs.

LEADERSHIP

How many years later is it possible to receive the leadership grant again (five or years later)?

There is no absolute limit, but there should be a compelling reason that leadership support is needed.

GENERAL

Are you able to apply for multiple categories? Or just one?

One category within competitive grants (Advocacy, Direct Service, Fund for Children Impact, or Leadership)

Could the notification on March 8 be a full rejection? Or will everyone be given the opportunity to apply by the 29th?

Possibly, if your organization/group does not meet the eligibility criteria.

Can we apply for this competitive Grantmaking Process if we applied last Fall but were turned down?

Yes.

What if you do NOT want to apply for any of the special initiatives? Is it a required question in the organizational profile and there is no option to say you are not interested?

The Common application creates a profile that identifies the opportunities for which you are eligible. However, you do not need to apply for any special initiative if you do not want to apply - it is not a required field.

Is having familial relationships among staff/board an issue for any of these grants or any of the other grant categories?

It is an issue for all our competitive grantmaking and some DAF grantmaking. We ask that our grantees do not have familial relationships between staff and board members.

Please explain umbrella organization. My organization has a fiscal sponsor and is most of the time considered an umbrella organization.

We would not provide funds to **re-grant**, but you can partner with other organizations to apply for grants.

Is a strategic plan required if the organization is older than 3 years?

It is optional for orgs older than 3 years unless we can reach out to request it.

Can we start the work and then save the form to return to later?

Yes.

Is it possible to get feedback on why we are turned down for a grant?

Yes, if your application was previously rejected, please email grantmaking and they will get back to you with feedback

Will the Brook J. Lenfest applications use the common app you outlined in Step#1 earlier?

Not this year, but possibly in future years.

Please clarify what you mean by low-income. In one place I see that 70% of the population served must be "low-income". But I also heard someone say that 70% must be under the federal poverty level. 100% of FPL? 138%? 200%.

We are looking for populations that are at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level.

Just to clarify, if you want to apply for specific grants for particular programs within a nonprofit organization, what information do we need to supply since it is not for the agency as a whole. Can we apply for multiple grants for different programs? In reference to the previous question, each program has a different operating budget.

We can only accept one competitive grant application per organization, per calendar year. You cannot apply for multiple programs within the same year.

Are you using "high poverty" "low income" and "below the poverty line" interchangeably? Or do some of these grants have different income guidelines?

Yes, we are using them interchangeably. We are looking for populations that are at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level.

Does the location of the funds in the pyramid show the relative size of each fund?

Yes, the size is reflective of the number and size of funds. The majority of funds at Philadelphia Foundation are donor advised funds.

What is the link for where we complete step 1?

Link is on our website, we include it [here](#) for your convenience.

<https://app.smarterselect.com/programs/95135-Philadelphia-Foundation>

If a colleague from my organization had an account for applying in previous years, should I use that same account this year? Or should I begin the application with a new account?

You can use the same account to fill out the new Common Application, but it might be better to create an account in your name to ensure that you see any emails and other notices that are sent out.

If we do not explicitly collect income info from participants - how can we demonstrate this?

Please explain why that is or demonstrate how you know you otherwise determine the population you are serving is defined as low income.

If you are a fiscally sponsored nonprofit, do we share the IRS 990 for our fiscal sponsor?

When submitting financials, the applying organization should submit their organization and project budget (where applicable). Information from fiscal sponsor should include Form 990 or Audit.

If we've typically applied in the fall to TPF - should we wait until the fall again? Is the process the same as it is this spring? Or would you recommend applying by March 1st.

If you received a grant last fall, then you are not eligible to apply for a competitive grant again until the Fall of 2024. However, if you wish to apply for one of the special initiatives, you should apply now for that special initiative - and then we can use your profile in the fall if you wish to be considered for a competitive grant.

KEY CONTACTS

Angelines Pabón (Angie)

Program Officer
215-863-8123, apabon@philafound.org
Contact for Fund For Children, YOUTHadelphia

Kadrise Mcintosh

Grants Associate, kmcintosh@philafound.org
Contact for Donor Advised Funds, Grants Operations Support

Kasey Thompson

Program Officer
kthompson@philafound.org
Contact for Direct Service, DAs Office Funds, Special Initiatives

Kimberly Gilmore (Kim)

Program Officer
215-863-8117, kgilmore@philafound.org
Contact for Scholarships

Leann Ayers

Exec. Dir. of Grantmaking (Acting); Sr. Program Officer
215-863-8124, layers@philafound.org
Contact for Special Initiatives, Leadership and Advocacy, Brook J. Lenfest Foundation

Maggie Kirk

Development and Donor Services Officer
215-863-8105, mkkirk@philafound.org
Contact for Donor Advised Funds

Sheressa Gordon

Program Officer, Grantmaking Operations
215-863 8122, sgordon@philafound.org
Contact for Donor Advised Funds, Special Initiatives, Henrietta Tower Wurts

Ted Qualli

Marketing & Communications Director
215-863-8126, tqualli@philafound.org
Contact for publicity questions

DESCRIPTIONS AND LINKS

Advocacy Unrestricted Grants

Unrestricted grants available to organizations addressing policy changes in relation to racial and social justice. Emphasis on utilizing advocacy and community organizing best practices towards policy change on behalf of marginalized and low-income communities in Greater Philadelphia.

Direct Service/General Operating Grants

Unrestricted grants available on a competitive basis for well-run nonprofits serving communities with high poverty rates while operationalizing equity at all levels of their work.

Fund for Children Strategic Investment in Youth Grants

Unrestricted grants for Philadelphia-based youth organizations whose missions prioritize youth leadership, civic engagement and youth organizing activities and outcomes.

Impact Program Grants

Program grants available to nonprofits demonstrating programmatic impact.

Leadership Grants

Project grants available on a competitive basis to increase measurable skills and racial diversity of pipelines for senior staff and board of nonprofits; and to strengthen organizational capacity and nonprofit leaders in the areas of governance, planning, civic engagement, board and staff development and diversity, equity and inclusion.

YOUTHadelphia Grants

Programs for youth by youth, YOUTHadelphia grants to youth organizations that include young people in leadership and decision making, and help them develop skills and capacity to be leaders and action-oriented problem solvers.

Links

[Fall '24 Grant Cycle Webinar Slides](#)

[Fall '24 Grant Cycle Webinar Video Recap](#)

[2024 Common Application](#)

[Donor Advised Fund One-Pager](#)