



Dear Friends:

The Asian Giving Circle (AGC) is pleased to announce the 15th Annual **Request for Proposals (RFP)**. AGC is a donor advised fund comprised of contributions from individual donors who support the goals of AGC. These goals are to bring a new source of funding to nonprofit organizations serving the Asian American communities of metropolitan Chicago, and to increase the awareness of philanthropy in our communities.

Launched in December 2002 in Chicago, AGC was the first volunteer-run giving circle comprised primarily of individual Asian American donors in the U.S. Affiliated with The Chicago Community Trust, its membership consists of a diverse group of Asian Americans and friends who pool their financial resources and expertise to support Asian American nonprofit organizations in the Chicago area. The Asian Giving Circle is also a member of the Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy's (AAPIP) National Giving Circle Network.

As a collective, AGC envisions a world with shared liberation and justice for all. To make this a reality, it is vital to center the leadership of those most impacted by intersecting forms of oppression.

For our 2019 grants, we are continuing our commitment to **support community-based efforts to protect oppressed and marginalized communities and advance justice for all**, which includes efforts focused on **community organizing and civic engagement**. AGC recognizes that historically oppressed communities need to engage in healing in order to effectively mobilize for change. As such, AGC 2019 grants are also prioritizing projects that facilitate and advance **healing toward community action**, with an emphasis on **mental health** in Asian American communities.

AGC has selected these areas because they have been identified as underfunded and urgent. This being said, projects seeking AGC funding do not need to be focused on all three areas. Rather, they can be focused on one or any combination of the areas, within a framework of collective action and community change.

Metropolitan Chicago area organizations that serve Asian Americans are eligible to apply, but priority will be given to programs/initiatives with budgets smaller than \$150,000. A program or initiative may be part of a larger organization that has a budget over \$150,000, but the budget for the program or initiative in consideration should be less than \$150,000.

The following are examples of projects that strongly fit this year's giving focus:

- Building political power in a community
- Community-led mental health initiatives
- Self-care or healing activities for frontline organizers and service staff
- Leadership development
- Voter registration, education, and mobilization
- Community-led mental health initiatives, awareness-raising, and/or de-stigmatization campaigns
- Storytelling - and art toward healing and justice
- Issue or value-based advocacy
- Know Your Rights training
- Digital organizing

Organizations that have not typically engaged in community organizing, civic engagement, and/or healing are encouraged to think creatively to consider how these strategies can further advance their missions.

AGC prioritizes initiatives that center the leadership and vision of impacted communities, including undocumented immigrants, people of color, low-income families, refugees, LGBTQ individuals, low-wage workers, Muslims, those who lack health care access, people with disabilities/disabled people, adoptees, youth, elders, women, and many more.

AGC recognizes that changing systems and structures requires time and persistence. As such, AGC awards do not necessarily need to result in immediate change; they can seed work for long-term change. Thus, organizations are encouraged to re-apply for AGC-funded projects from 2017 and 2018.

All applications must be submitted by 5 PM on Monday, June 3, 2019 through [Grant Central](#), the Chicago Community Trust's grants management system. Site visits will be conducted with finalists during June and July, and grants will be announced and awarded between August and September.

For other questions, please contact us at asiangivingcircle@gmail.com. If you'd like to be included in an email list for updates and FAQs for this opportunity, please email asiangivingcircle@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

The Asian Giving Circle

Asian Giving Circle 2019 Grant Application Form

2019 Funding Guidelines

For our 2019 grants, we are continuing our commitment to **support community-based efforts to protect oppressed and marginalized communities and advance justice for all**, which includes efforts focused on **community organizing and civic engagement**. AGC recognizes that historically oppressed communities need to engage in healing in order to effectively mobilize for change. This year, AGC 2019 grants are also prioritizing projects that facilitate and advance **healing toward community action**, with an emphasis on **mental health** in Asian American communities.

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Types of projects that will be considered include, but are not limited to:

- Building political power in a community
- Community-led mental health initiatives
- Leadership development
- Voter registration, education, and mobilization
- Community-led mental health initiatives, awareness-raising, and/or de-stigmatization campaigns
- Storytelling - and art toward healing and justice
- Issue or value-based advocacy
- Know Your Rights training
- Digital organizing

If you are unsure if your proposed project fits within the scope, or have any questions, please contact **asiangivingcircle@gmail.com**.

- **We will consider proposals that meet the following criteria:**
 - Nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) status. Fiscal sponsors are allowable with

accompanying fiscal agent sponsor agreement.

- Organizations that serve and/or engage Asian American populations (including Filipinx American, Southeast Asian American, South Asian American/Desi, Central Asian American, and East Asian American) and/or Pacific Islander populations (including Native Hawaiians, Chamorro, Tongan, Samoan, etc.) in the Chicago Metropolitan Area (defined as Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, or Will Counties).
- AGC grant awards range from \$2,000 to \$8,000. That said, for proposals that show strong potential impact and/or engage strategic community partnerships to address this issue, AGC may be open to a larger grant amount.
- The Asian Giving Circle **will not support**: scholarships or fellowships; private or public educational institutions; religious organizations for religious purposes; political parties or political action committees; capital campaigns or endowments; hospitals; or government or municipal agencies.
- All new and previously funded applicants are welcome to apply as long as they meet the above criteria. 2017 and 2018 grantees are welcome to apply again; if the funds will support the continuation of last year's project, please submit a progress report (written or video).

Required Attachments

- 1. Audited financial statements for the last fiscal year, if available, or Form 990. If neither document is available, include an unaudited financial statement.
- 2. Current year's operating budget (including projected expenses and revenues).
- 3. Proposed program/project budget (including projected expenses and revenues).
- 4. In order for us to determine your organization's sustainability and funding diversification, please share some of your funding sources in the last fiscal year (foundations, corporations, or governmental agencies).
- 5. Verification of your organization's or fiscal agent's tax-exempt status. If using a fiscal sponsor¹, please include a letter of agreement.

¹[1] A fiscal sponsor acts as a guardian of grant funds, retains discretion and control over the use of grant funds, and ensures that the funds are used for 501(c)3 purposes. The fiscal sponsor and applicant's missions should be in alignment.

**Asian Giving Circle
Grant Application Form
2019**

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Organization name:	Year in which the organization began operations:
Address:	City:
State:	Zip code:
Telephone number:	Fax number
Executive Director's name:	Employer Identification Number (EIN):
Executive Director's e-mail:	Telephone number:
Contact person for this grant:	Title:
E-mail address:	Telephone number:

Fiscal Sponsor [1](if other than requesting organization)

Organization name:	
Address:	City:

State:	Zip code:
Contact person:	Title:
Employer Identification Number (EIN):	Telephone number:

[1] A fiscal sponsor acts as a guardian of grant funds, retains discretion and control over the use of grant funds, and ensures that the funds are used for 501(c)3 purposes. The fiscal sponsor and applicant's missions should be in alignment.

APPLICANT'S FINANCIAL INFORMATION

1. Dates of fiscal year (FY) for which the organization is seeking funding	Begin date:	End date:
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2. Financial Chart

	Income	Expenses	Net Balance
Organization's last completed fiscal year budget (actual income and expenses):	\$	\$	\$

Project Support budget for last completed FY (if applicable):	\$	\$	\$
Budget for fiscal year for which the organization is seeking funding:	\$	\$	\$
Project Support budget for FY for which the organization is seeking funding (if applicable):	\$	\$	\$

Executive Summary:

1. **Please provide the mission of the organization. *Limit answer to approximately 250 words.***
2. **Please provide a brief summary of the history of the organization. *Limit answer to approximately 250 words***

Signature of authorized official

Date:

Name/Title:

Proposal Narrative (Please provide the following information in this order. **Please follow the word limits requested for each question.**

1. **Please describe the community the organization or project seeks to impact. What are the major challenges the organization or project seeks to address?** *Limit answer to approximately 300 words.*
2. **Describe the organization's or project's approach to community organizing, civic engagement, and/or healing.** *Limit to approximately 200 words.*
3. **What long term goal(s) (which may not be achieved by the end of the grant period) does the organization/program seek to achieve?** *Limit to approximately 300 words.*
4. **What are the short-term outcomes of the project or campaign(s) for which the organization is applying and how will the organization/program use Asian Giving Circle support to help achieve these outcomes?** *Limit to approximately 300 words.*
5. **What are the most important strategies the organization will undertake to achieve the proposed outcomes?** *Limit to approximately 300 words.*
6. **How will these proposed outcomes be measured? What does the organization identify as evidence of progress?** *Limit to approximately 300 words*
7. **Please provide a brief biography of the executive director and/or key staff assigned to this project.** *Limit to approximately 300 words.*
8. **What amount of support are you requesting and what time period will the grant be used in?** AGC grant awards range from \$2,000 to \$8,000. That said, for proposals that show strong potential impact and/or engage strategic community partnerships to address this issue, AGC may be open to a larger grant amount.
9. **In the organizational profile section, organizations are asked to provide demographic information on staff and board members. The AGC realizes that categories can be complicated and limited to define communities. What would the organization like the AGC to know about the communities the organization represents and serves, using gender/race/ethnicity/income/age/ability or other demographics? For example, "75% of participants in the program are immigrants or children of immigrants, with 40% being of East Asian, South Asian, and Arab backgrounds. 80% of participants are under the age of 18. A third of participants**

identify as LGBTQ." *Limit to approximately 300 words.*

9. If the organization is a 2017 or 2018 AGC grantee and is requesting funding to continue last year's project, please email asiangivingcircle@gmail.com to obtain details on and submit a progress report (narrative and financial).