



The LGBT Community Fund Request for Proposals Impact Grants

Vision: The Fund envisions a region where The LGBT Community lives responsibly in peace and harmony with all communities, enjoys the same freedoms and quality of life as others, and has the same opportunity to make the region a better and safer place for all to live.

Mission: To benefit greater Chicago's LGBT Community through: grant-making that improves the quality of life for its members; and identifying and focusing resources for the Community and those institutions that support it.

Overview of the LGBT Community Fund

The LGBT Fund of The Chicago Community Trust ("The Fund") was publicly launched in 2010 as a donor advised fund. The Chicago Community Trust provided \$500,000 as a permanent endowment with the requirement that the LGBT Community Fund Steering Committee raise \$1,000,000 in matching dollars to be used for grant-making. The Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust issued a \$150,000 matching challenging to help encourage gifts. To date the fund has raised over \$1 million in addition to The Chicago Community Trust's contribution. The Fund is not building an endowment beyond the initial The Chicago Community Trust commitment. Rather, it is raising funds in order to make grants.

The LGBT Community Fund awarded \$282,500 to fourteen organizations in August 2015 in Round I of funding. These Impact Grants provided funding for general operations, capacity building and for seed money for new projects/organizations and/or those in their infancy.

The Fund awarded \$350,000 in Transformational Grants to three collaborations involving six organizations in the spring of 2016 in Round II of funding. These grants were designed for projects seeking to move the broader LGBT Community significantly and profoundly towards a better quality of life.

The Fund awarded \$290,000 in Community Grants to seven organizations addressing community needs in Round III of funding. The community needs funded were identified in the 2011 Morten Group LGBT Community Needs Assessment, which included focus areas of physical and mental health care, community safety, and support for LGBT youth and seniors.

This Request for Proposals specifies areas of focus and requirements for Impact Grant proposals that will be submitted through The Chicago Community Trust's Grant Central system. The Fund's Grants Committee will evaluate those proposals and will conduct site visits with a smaller number of selected applicants.

Grant making Focus

Proposals must demonstrate the applicant's commitment to the health and well-being of the LGBT Community in Cook County, defined broadly to also include individuals who are questioning. Specifically, The Fund seeks to fund innovative initiatives that focus ONLY on the following four priority areas:

1. LGBTQ young adults, 24 and younger:

- Healthcare, mental health services and drug/alcohol treatment
- Employment training and placement
- Homelessness
- Age-appropriate cultural and social activities
- Mentoring

2. Older adults, 55 and over:

- Healthcare - including behavioral health (mental health and addiction)
- Employment re-training and placement
- Housing
- Cultural and social activities
- Wellness, quality of life, and independent living
- Information regarding rights and services

3. General Healthcare:

- Equal access and treatment, regardless of orientation or gender identity
- Mental health services
- HIV-AIDS awareness and care

4. Community Safety:

- Safety within lived community spaces and/or domestic partnerships/civil unions/marriage

- Improved communication between the community and law enforcement
- Violence prevention and promotion of safety within communities

The Fund welcomes Impact Grants proposals addressing all four of these priority areas. Proposals dealing with older adults and community safety are encouraged.

Type of Grant

Impact Grants are intended to provide funding in two categories:

1. Seed money for projects that are in their infancy, or
2. Capacity building support for existing and emerging organizations

Impact Grants range from \$15,000 to \$25,000.

Proposals must demonstrate the following:

- How grant requests supporting project seed money will allow the applicant to start a new project and move it toward implementation.
- How grant requests for capacity building projects will allow the applicant to carry out its mission more effectively.
- How the grant will allow the organization(s) to reach traditionally underserved communities in addressing emerging needs
- Collaboration among two or more organizations is encouraged but not required.

Eligibility

In order to be eligible for funding from the LGBT Community Fund the applicant organization(s) must demonstrate the following:

- That it is a 501(c)(3) public charity in good standing in the state of IL.
- That it serves the LGBT Community of Cook County. LGBT is broadly defined as including questioning individuals.
- Grants may **not** be used for capital campaigns or improvements, endowments, fundraising events, partisan political activities or to support individuals.
- That grant funds will be used in one year. Multi-year funding is not supported.
- Faith-based and religious organizations are eligible to apply for project-specific grants provided that the program supported does not promote or require religious doctrine and that the applicant otherwise complies with The Fund's requirements and grant-making focus.

Proposal Requirements

- Completed proposals must be received by 11:59PM CST on December 28th on [The Chicago Community Trust Grant Central system](#).

Morten Group is the Fund's grant making consultant. For any questions email Lisa Gilmore at lisa@mortengroup.com