



**LGBTQ Community Fund
2024 Request for Proposals
Focus Areas: Organizations serving Arts, Seniors, and Youth**

Timeline

RFP Release Date	Friday, July 19
Information Session (Virtual: Zoom)	Wednesday, August 7 at 1 PM Register here.
Application Deadline	Monday, August 26
Site Visits	October 9 – November 1
Funding Decisions	Late November 2024
Award Notification	Mid December 2024

Background

LGBTQ Community Fund grants are designed for a wide variety of initiatives that respond to identified LGBTQ+ community needs.

As the Fund enters its second decade of grantmaking, it will be making annual grants for projects, operating support, and seed monies each fall, from 2022 to 2024. This advance planning has been made possible, in part, by the generosity of our donors. Below are the specific focus areas for grantmaking each year:

- 2022: Community Safety and Employment
- 2023: Housing and Health/Mental Health
- **2024: Organizations with budgets less than \$2 million, with an emphasis on youth, seniors, and art programs that demonstrate connectivity to one of the four focus areas identified in the [2019 LGBT Fund Community Needs Assessment](#).**

2024 Focus Areas

For 2024, the Fund seeks to support organizations with operating budgets of less than \$2 million, doing work focused on one or more of the following priority areas:

- Seniors: Proposals that address the unique needs of LGBTQ+ seniors, including affordable housing, access to government and nonprofit resources, vocational services, healthcare, age discrimination, and community and belonging.
- Youth: Proposals that address the unique needs of LGBTQ+ youth, including affordable housing, access to government and nonprofit resources, vocational services, healthcare, age discrimination, community and belonging, leadership development, and safety issues.
- Arts: Proposals that provide LGBTQ+ inclusive arts and culture opportunities.
- Intersectionality: Priority will be given to proposals that address the compounded effects of multiple (or intersecting) systems of oppression experienced by those holding multiple marginalized identities within the LGBTQ+ community (i.e. heterosexism and racism, heterosexism and ableism, heterosexism and cis-sexism, etc.).
- Inequities: Priority will be given to proposals focused on serving historically marginalized and underserved groups within the LGBTQ+ community, including older adults, people living with disabilities, youth, trans and gender non-conforming people, People of Color, and women/femmes.

Please refer to the [2019 LGBT Fund Community Needs Assessment](#) for more details on each focus area.

Grantmaking Criteria

The grant application consists of two questions. Applicants will be asked to demonstrate alignment with the RFP Focus Areas defined above (Question 1), and demonstrate a commitment to working with LGBTQ+ communities (Question 2).

Proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria. The strongest applications will address all of the areas outlined below.

- Alignment with LGBTQ Community Fund's mission and identified focus area from the RFP (Q1)
- Commitment to and proficiency in serving LGBTQ+ communities and supporting LGBTQ+ leadership (Q2)
- How the organization addresses an unmet community need (Q1)
- Focus on serving historically marginalized and underserved groups within the LGBTQ+ community (Q1 and Q2)

- Ability to demonstrate impact (Q1 and Q2)
- Organizational health and sustainability (Q2 and organizational profile)

Grant Amounts Available & Term

For 2024, grants may be requested for general operating support. Grants will generally range from \$20,000 to \$40,000 and the Fund will award up to \$400,000 in grants. The grant term is one year.

Eligible Applicants

To be eligible for funding from the LGBTQ Community Fund, applicants must meet all of the following criteria:

- Have a current year operating budget of less than \$2,000,000;
- Be a nonprofit organization with evidence that it (a) has been recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Code; (b) is fiscally sponsored by a Section 501(c)(3) organization; or (c) is a governmental unit within the meaning of Section 170(c)(1) of the Code;
- Be described in Section 170(b)(1)(A) of the Code, other than a “disqualified supporting organization” within the meaning of Section 4966(d)(4) of the Code; and
- Be located within or primarily serving residents of the Chicago metropolitan area (City of Chicago, Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will counties)

Ineligible Uses

Grant funds may not be used for:

- Electioneering or political activities
- Contributions to any candidate for public office or political committee
- Campaigning on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office
- Grants to individuals
- Capital campaigns or improvements, endowments,
- Fundraising events

Collection of DEI Demographic Data

The Chicago Community Trust serves a wide variety of constituents and organizations. As such, we collect organizational demographic data to assist in informing us about the diverse, representative, and inclusive staffing practices of our potential and current grant recipients. This data helps us ensure that the organizations we fund are representative of the communities we serve. Therefore, we kindly

request completion of the following data on your organization's board, leadership, staff, and volunteers to ensure the inclusion of diverse perspectives as we work to achieve our mission of a thriving, equitable and connected Chicago region.

For the LGBTQ Community Fund, priority will be given to proposals from organizations whose missions explicitly name serving the LGBTQ+ community, **and** whose majority of senior leadership and board identify as LGBTQ+. We strongly encourage all applications to provide this demographic data through their Organizational Profile.

Application process

Applicants must complete their application for the **"LGBTQ Community Fund – November 2024"** funding opportunity via GrantCentral, The Chicago Community Trust's online grants management system. To access an application, grant seekers log into GrantCentral at <https://community-cct.force.com/grantcentral/s/login/>.

Applicants must complete and certify an Organization Profile prior to application submission. If the Organization Profile was completed for a previous funding opportunity, it must be reviewed and, if needed, updated and certified prior to application submission.

Sponsored organizations without 501(c)(3) status must identify their fiscal sponsor as soon as possible and ask them to complete an organization profile in GrantCentral prior to the sponsored organization's application submission. Fiscal sponsors must log in and complete and certify an organization profile in GrantCentral at <https://community-cct.force.com/grantcentral/s/login/> prior to application submission.

The application deadline is Monday, August 26 at 11:59 PM Central. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. Applicants may receive a site visit, telephone call or other communication from foundation staff as part of the application review process.

Contact Information

For technical assistance regarding GrantCentral, please contact grants@cct.org. How-to guides and other helpful information are available at <https://www.cct.org/grants/how-to-apply>.

For programmatic and application content questions, please email lgbtq@cct.org. Staff support is available Monday through Friday, from 9 AM - 5 PM Central.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Does the program/project have to be an existing project, or can it be a new/proposed project?

The project can be existing or new; the key is that it addresses the published focus areas.

2. Are ongoing projects eligible?

Yes, so long as they address the focus areas and other grant eligibility requirements.

3. What is the range of grant awards?

The award amounts will generally range from \$20,000 to \$40,000.

4. Is there a certain population or geographic focus?

Funding will focus on projects serving LGBTQ+ community members in the Chicago Metro area, which includes Chicago, suburban Cook County, and the Illinois counties of DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will.

5. Will priority be given to collaborative projects?

We do encourage collaboration if the focus of the collaboration aligns with the expertise, community needs, and the focus areas we have identified for funding.

6. May organizations jointly apply for a grant?

Yes, but only one application is necessary. We ask that one organization take the lead on the administration of the grant as the lead fiscal agent.

7. Are existing coalitions eligible? Can an organization apply on behalf of an existing coalition, or can an organization create a new coalition?

Yes, an organization can apply on behalf of a coalition so long as there is a lead agency for the coalition.

8. If my organization already receives funding from The Chicago Community Trust, are we still eligible to apply?

Yes, you are still eligible to apply regardless of other funding from the Trust.

9. Does the Steering Committee look at impact (number of individuals served) when evaluating grant applications?

Impact is one of several factors considered in the review process. Please detail the desired impact and/or demonstrate the impact for existing programs.

10. Does receiving an award in a specific year preclude an organization from seeking funding the following year?

No it does not: all organizations are eligible to apply. Please see the cadence of grant focus areas for 2022 – 2024. Receiving an award will not preclude you from applying again, but priority will be given to applicants who demonstrate need in the published focus areas for that year.

11. If our organization applies, but does not receive an award during the current year, are we eligible to apply/receive an award in a subsequent year?

Yes, previous grant applicants are eligible to apply for funding in subsequent years should you meet the eligibility and focus area requirements for 2024. Please note: a goal of the Fund is to support a broad range of work in the community; larger organizations that may fall into all the focus areas are encouraged to be selective and focus on the need.

12. What do you mean by “intersectionality?”

As defined by Black legal scholar and critical race theorist Kimberlé Crenshaw, intersectionality refers to the compounded effects of multiple systems of power/oppression experienced by individuals holding multiple marginalized identities. Intersectionality acknowledges that even within groups of people with a shared identity, intragroup differences exist because of the differing impact of overlapping oppressions. (Please see pp. 25-26 of the 2019 LGBT Fund Community Needs Assessment for more details.)

13. Is there a word or character count for the narrative questions on the application?

There is not a word count or character limit for the application questions.