



General Fund Grant Application Scoring Guide

The following table identifies the funding priorities grantmakers take into consideration when making funding decisions. Generally, a group whose work aligns with our priorities will have innovative strategies to push back against unjust systems, work with the community closest to injustice to build collective power, hold meaningful partnerships, build capacity and use their resources according to their values, and emphasize leadership that is reflective of the community the organization serves.

Please use the table as a guide only. Social justice work is nuanced, intersective, and more complicated than the table captures. The grantmaking committee will look at each organization holistically through the information provided in your application.

While we recognize that direct aid is important and one of the tools to combat oppressive systems, the General Fund grant program aims to fund groups who are working on upstream approaches and building power to dismantle the need for direct services altogether.

If you need clarification or more information, don't hesitate to [contact us](#). Social justice work looks different across sectors and doesn't fit neatly into rigid boxes. We are happy to offer our thoughts on the fit of your organization and General Funds grants.

Funding Priorities					
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<p>Systems Change <i>(Relates to problems and strategies questions in the application)</i></p> <p>Grantmakers are interested in learning about the process vs the finished product.</p> <p>i.e. A criminal justice reform group doesn't have to abolish prisons at the end of the grant term. The programming to further the group's mission is what stands out.</p>	<p>Organization focuses on the individual as the source of the problem instead of the system.</p> <p>Organization works to assimilate individuals to current oppressive systems instead of challenging the system itself.</p> <p>"Pull yourself up by the bootstraps."</p>				<p>Organization is thinking outside the box, introducing new and/or refreshing ways to push back on systemic failures.</p> <p>Organization tackles the root causes of issues, not just the symptoms.</p> <p>Organization approaches their work through a community lens.</p> <p>"Nobody's free until everyone is free." - Fannie Lou Hammer</p>
<p>Power Building <i>(Relates to power building question in the application)</i></p> <p>Grantmakers want to know about community/collective</p>	<p>Organization focuses on individual power building vs communal/collective power building.</p>				<p>Organization builds power among communities in order to push against status quo barriers (legal, physical, educational, societal, etc)</p>

<p>power building vs individual power building.</p> <p>Building power can take different forms such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with non-english speaking parents and caretakers to understand U.S. school systems in order to advocate for their child(ren). • Sharing knowledge and skills of outdoor activities (camping, kayaking, hiking, etc) with BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ folks so they feel comfortable taking space in environments they have historically been left out of. 					<p>for collective liberation.</p>
<p>Partnership Building <i>(Relates to the partnership question in the application)</i></p> <p>Grantmakers are interested in knowing how your group pushes against individualism and/or incorporates community driven social change.</p> <p>The quality of partnerships holds more weight than the quantity.</p>	<p>Organization has few to no partners.</p> <p>Organization’s relationships with partners are extractive/unequal.</p>				<p>Organization partners with others across sizes, sectors and geographic areas and their relationships are mutually beneficial and equitable.</p>
<p>Organizational Capacity <i>(Relates to the budget and other information submitted in the application)</i></p> <p>In addition to the budget, grantmakers are looking for groups with drive and passion for their mission who allocate resources according to their values and the scale of their programming.</p>	<p>Organization is not well established and requires significant growth related to financial and human resources.</p> <p>Organization is well established, resourced, and their specific project can easily find funding elsewhere.</p>				<p>The small, emerging, grassroots organization is established enough to carry out their mission.</p> <p>Organization allocates resources consistent with their values.</p> <p>Organization is well resourced but their specific project cannot easily find funding elsewhere.</p>
<p>Representative Leadership <i>(Relates to demographic questions in the application)</i></p> <p>Funding is prioritized for groups that are led by Black, Indigenous, and people of color — especially if they have other intersecting identities such as LGBTQIA2S+, immigrants/refugees, disabled, etc.</p>	<p>Organization’s leadership is not representative of the community they serve and have little to no plan/strategy on addressing it.</p>				<p>Organization has taken intentional steps to be representative of those they serve.</p> <p>Organization recognizes the importance of being led by the community they serve and have taken significant steps to address their lack of leadership representation and support the leadership of those most impacted.</p>