

Request for Ideas The Equality Fund at The Boston Foundation

The Equality Fund at the Boston Foundation was established in 2012 to provide current and future support to advance the equitable treatment of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) people and their families in Greater Boston. In 2013, the Fund will distribute \$100,000 in grants of up to \$20,000¹. Grants will be made that enhance the abilities of entities to achieve measureable and sustainable results and support capacity building for organizations that:

- Currently serve LGBTQ people and their families;
- Seek to sustain or expand existing services to reach LGBTQ people and their families; and/or
- Seek to start new services to reach LGBTQ people and their families.

Examples of capacity building efforts include pilot or demonstration projects, program design, evaluation, research, board assessment/development, merger/restructuring effort, components of a strategic planning effort, equipment and technology, and staff costs. Emphasis will be placed on increasing the organizational impact to sustain, start or expand services to reach LGBTQ people and their families.

The Boston Foundation releases this request for ideas to learn about:

1. New approaches to addressing issues affecting the LGBTQ communities; and/or
2. New issues affecting the LGBTQ communities.

The Equality Fund Advisory Committee, in partnership with the Boston Foundation, will advance promising ideas for funding consideration based on alignment with the following general criteria:

- Fit with the above stated mission of the Equality Fund;
- Organizational need and potential impact on organizational effectiveness; and
- Strength or potential impact on the population served.

Multiple ideas from one organization will be considered. Eligible applicant organizations are tax-exempt or operate under the fiscal sponsorship of a tax-exempt nonprofit, and primarily serve the people of Greater Boston. Organizations who currently receive Boston Foundation support through the competitive or initiative funding processes are eligible for Equality Fund grants.

Grants will not be awarded to individual public schools or other public agencies, but consideration is given to requests from community organizations that offer programs in collaboration with these agencies. An eligible organization must also be operated and organized so that it does not discriminate in the hiring of staff or provision of services on the basis of race, religion, gender or gender identity, sexual orientation, age, national origin or disability.

The Process

¹ Please note: The Equality Fund anticipates making a number of investments ranging in size from \$2,500 to \$20,000 based on several considerations such as needs of the LGBTQ communities, type of project, total project budget, percentage of request compared to total project budget, etc. The Fund anticipates the average grant size will be approximately \$5,000. Requests for less than \$2,500 will be considered.

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1. Submit your idea for consideration. Requests must be received by 11:59 PM on 1/18/13 to be considered for advancement to a 2nd and final round of consideration. Submission can be made:
 - Electronically:
 - Via email to grantsinfo@tbf.org
 - In paper, hard copy format:
 - Via fax to 617.338.1604 to the attention of Grants Management
 - Mailing to The Boston Foundation, 75 Arlington Street, 10th Floor, Boston, MA 02116

Please note: To spur collaboration, further idea generation and enhance transparency, the Foundation may include any and all ideas received in future publications and on the Foundation's social media channels.
2. The Equality Fund Advisory Committee in partnership with Boston Foundation staff will review all submissions received by 11:59 PM on 1/18/13 and select promising ideas to advance for funding consideration. Organizations will be notified of the status of their submission by 2/19/13.
3. Organizations advanced for funding consideration will be asked to provide additional information, including a project narrative and detailed project budget, by 3/31/13.
4. Foundation staff will review submitted materials and recommend funding in partnership with the Equality Fund Advisory Committee. Foundation staff with the Advisory Committee may ask to conduct a site visit and/or finalists may be asked to present their proposal to the Advisory Committee. Organizations will be notified of funding decisions by 5/24/13.

If you have questions, please contact:

Corey Davis, Director of Grants Management
Phone: 617.338.1700
Email: grantsinfo@tbf.org

OR

Tbf.org/equality

Submitting Your Idea

Organizational Information

- Organization name
- Address, City, State, Zip
- EIN number
- Organization website address (if applicable)
- Organization description
- Contact person name, title, phone, email

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Idea Information

- What is the name of your idea/project?
Note: A brief one-line, 10-12 word description of the idea.

- What is your idea/project?
Note: Specify the unmet or under-met need the idea will address and how the idea aligns with the mission of the Equality Fund.
Note: 2-3 sentences, 200 words or less

- Who will your idea/project support?
Note: List all groups or sub-groups as applicable (i.e., lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, specific population by age, geographic focus, etc.).
Note: 25 words or less

- What does success for your idea/project look like?
Note: 1-2 sentences, 200 words or less

Additional Information Requested for Funding Consideration
(This will be sent to organizations selected from the Request for Ideas)

Basic Fund Request Information outlined above.

Project Request Information

- Project Title, if applicable
Note: A brief one-line, 10-12 word description of the project.

- Please describe the unmet or under-met need, issue to be addressed, or problem to be solved by this project.
Note: 200 words or less

- Please describe the project and indicate the circumstances that make this particular project a priority.
Note: 200 words or less

- Please discuss your organization's capacity and/or resources available to accomplish this project.
Note: 200 words or less
Note: Please include a project plan or scope of service, if applicable.

- Objective(s)
Note: The following best describes the objective for this project: (select "yes" for your primary objective only; please leave all other options on "none"; for "other", please specify in the text box immediately following this question) drop down menu with following options:

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- Strengthen Delivery of Services
 - Increase Quantity of Current Services
 - Expansion/Addition of New Services
 - Improve Organizational Infrastructure
 - Improve Management/Leadership
 - Strategic Restructuring
 - Financial Development/Improvement
 - Effective Communication Strategy
 - Other (Please specify, no more than 20 words)
- What connections have you made, or will you make, with others [communities, organizations or networks] about your project?
Note: 1-2 sentences, 50 words or less
- How would you sustain the project after the funding expires?
Note: 50 words or less
- Amount Requested from the Equality Fund at the Boston Foundation
Note: The Equality Fund at The Boston Foundation anticipates supporting a variety of projects ranging in size from \$2,500 to \$20,000 based on several considerations such as needs of the LGBTQ communities, type of project, total project budget, percentage of request compared to total project budget, etc. The Fund anticipates the average grant size will be approximately \$5,000. Requests for less than \$2,500 will be considered.
- Budget for Proposed Project
Note: Numbers only, no dollar signs or commas (e.g. 7500)