



Grant-making Philosophy and Priorities

The Peace Development Fund makes grants to organizations and projects working to achieve peaceful, just and equitable relationships among people and nations by charitable and educational means. We believe that the change in values needed to establish a more just and peaceful world will come about only if they are strongly rooted in local communities which value the importance of building movements to create systemic social change. These are communities that view everyone, especially young people, as a vital force in the transformation of society. We recognize young people's ability to reshape our society, not only politically, but also spiritually and culturally as well.

The Peace Development Fund is committed to supporting organizations and projects that recognize that peace will never be enduring unless it is based on justice and upon an appreciation of both the diversity and unity of the human family. We understand peace to be a consequence of equitable relationships—with our fellow human beings and with the natural environment of which we are a part and on which we depend.

Recently we have witnessed the negative effects of the United States as the world's sole superpower, neo-liberalism and the globalization of capitalism, the limiting of civil liberties in the U.S. and abroad, decreases in funding for social services and the continued strengthening of the political, social and religious right. Some of these effects are the widening gap between rich and poor, heightened militarization, rising incidences of hate crimes, and increasing poverty and unemployment. This is evidence that some of the institutional and structural causes of injustice, whether physical, social, religious, or economic, remain largely intact. Challenging those causes and developing community-based alternatives that promote a more just, nonviolent society is at the heart of our grant-making program.

Funding Priorities:

Organizing to Shift Power:

- Groups that are creating a power base that can hold leaders accountable to the people who are affected by their decisions.
- Groups that let their membership or constituents take the lead in collective action-planning and decision-making.
- Groups whose leadership comes directly from the same communities that benefit from their work.

Working to Build a Movement (Collective Action):

- Groups that organize in the local community, but make connections between local issues and a broader need for systemic change.
- Groups that provide a space for members to develop their political analyses at the same time as taking action for change.

- Groups that break down barriers within the progressive movement, by building strategic alliances between groups of different cultural or class backgrounds or different issue areas.
- Groups that explore the root causes of injustice, and have a long-term vision for the kind of social change they are working for.

Dismantling Oppression:

- Groups and projects that are proactively engaged in a process of challenging and dismantling institutional structures, both internal and external to the organization, that perpetuates racism.
- Groups that are proactively making connections between oppressions (racism, heterosexism, sexism, ageism, classism, ableism, etc.) and injustice, and are engaged in a process of challenging and dismantling those structures and systems that perpetuate oppression.

Creating New Structures:

- Groups that have alternative organizational structures that allow power to flow “from the bottom up.”
- Efforts to create new, community-based alternative systems and structures (economic, political, cultural, religious, etc.) that are liberating, democratic, and environmentally sustainable and which promote healthy, sustainable communities.

Other Funding Priorities:

- Projects based in the United States of America and its territories, including those with an international focus.
- New or emerging organizations, efforts that have difficulty securing funds from other sources, and groups that receive little other foundation support.

What PDF does not fund:

- Social services that are not linked to a clear organizing strategy.
- Individuals or organizations with strong leadership from only one individual.
- Projects with a primary focus on “conflict resolution.”
- Research that is not directly linked to an organizing strategy (PDF does fund research conducted by grassroots organizations as part of their general support).

Additional Information regarding the Fiscal Sponsorship Program:

Projects that apply to the fiscal sponsorship program must also keep the following in mind:

- The project must involve public education and/or other charitable (§501(c)(3)) activities that further the charitable goals of the Peace Development Fund.
- Only groups may be accepted into the program, currently PDF does not accept individuals into the fiscal sponsorship program.
- PDF does not accept projects into the program whose focus is lobbying.
- Project activity may occur at any level – local, state, regional or international.

May 2016