

PDF's Grantmaking Philosophy

The Peace Development Fund makes grants to community based organizations working for social justice. We believe that the change in values needed to establish a more just and peaceful world can come about only if it is strongly rooted in local communities that 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.

The Peace Development Fund is committed to supporting organizations and projects that recognize that peace will never be sustained unless it is based on justice and 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.

Funding Priorities

What We Fund:

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 people who are most affected by the issues you are organizing around.

Working to Build a Movement:

- 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 dismantling oppression, confronting privilege and challenging institutional structures that perpetuate oppression (both internal and external to the organization).
- Groups that are proactively making connections between the different forms of oppression (racism, heterosexism, sexism, ageism, classism, ableism, etc.), and its connections with injustice.

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:

- Organizations led by people of color; groups that seek to collaborate with other local organizations.

What We Do Not Fund:

- Organizations and/or projects that operate outside of Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin counties.
- Social services that are not linked to a clear organizing strategy. (PDF *does* fund organizations whose organizing work has a social service component.)
- Individuals, or organizations with strong leadership from only one individual.
- Audio-visual productions and distribution - TV, radio, publications, films, etc. (PDF *does* fund media work or audio-visual production as part of the general expenses of groups engaged in grassroots organizing).
- Research that is not directly linked to an organizing strategy (PDF *does* fund research as part of the general expenses of groups engaged in grassroots organizing).
- Academic institutions and scholarships.
- Other grantmaking organizations (unless they are your fiscal sponsor).
- Organizations with budgets larger than \$250,000.

Application Procedure

Step 1: The first step in applying to the Peace Development Fund is to determine when the deadlines are for each particular funding program by going to our website, www.peacedevelopmentfund.org. PDF will not consider applications that are received more than 60 days before any given deadline. **Applications must be submitted online no later than 5:00 PM Eastern Standard Time** on the day of the deadline. If the deadline falls on a weekend or public holiday, the deadline will be extended to the next business day.

Step 2: Applicants are required to complete our Application Form, available through an online link on our website.

Please note that **we only accept applications online**, unless an exception is given beforehand. Applications mailed or emailed to our office without first contacting staff may not be included in the process.

Step 3: **Pioneer Valley Community Advised Fund** eligible proposals will be invited into the grantmaking docket within *two weeks* of the deadline, and all applicants will receive a notice at this time regarding the decision.

If an organization is invited into the grantmaking docket, we will require additional material, which is typically due within *one week* of notification. We will also contact the group with some follow-up questions by phone or email and ask for references who can speak to the group's work. Decisions on grant awards will be made within *one month* of the initial deadline.

Step 4: A final report is required for each grant awarded by the Peace Development Fund within nine months of receiving the grant. All grantees will be required to submit a written report describing the manner in which the funds have been spent and the progress made in accomplishing the purposes of the grant. If the organization would prefer to submit a report by audio or video, we do make exceptions in certain circumstances (please contact our office first). The Final Report form link can be obtained by visiting our website at www.peacedevelopmentfund.org or by calling our office.

Specific Information on the PVCAF Grant

The funds can be used to support a collaborative project, event and/or the opportunity to share resources. Funds from this grant can be spent on program and organization space; project salaries and/or stipends; program development and expenses; peer training; leadership development; skills development; and shared equipment.

This may include computer software or hardware, capacity building trainings, skills development for emerging leaders, joint actions, etc.

The majority of grants awarded by PDF are for general support. We believe that the people on the ground know how best to spend the money. However, if an organization's mission is not within PDF's priorities but the organization has a program or project that is within the priorities, i.e. if the organization is a direct service organization, but has an organizing component, then we would recommend that groups apply for a specific program or project.

The PVCAF will not recommend funding for a project that has already been completed or is nearly over by the time the grant award is considered. Applicants should keep this in mind when describing their programs.

Size of Grants:

We recommend that groups request the full amount that the organization needs, since the grant size may be reduced from your initial request. Grant size may be determined by using the following criteria:

- Financial need and access to other sources of funding
- Current PDF funding priorities
- Resources available to PDF
- Numbers of proposals received

Grant Fund	Grant Range	Average Grant
"We are in this Together" Grants	\$500 - \$3,000	\$1,500

Frequency and Number of Grants:

Generally, groups are eligible for one grant a year through each grantmaking fund. For example, if a group receives a Donor Advised grant, they are not eligible to apply to **that** fund until the following year, but they are still eligible to apply for the Community Organizing grant funds.

PDF typically does not provide multi-year grants or commitments. PDF grants are one-time grants without any guarantee of renewal. If a group has received three, sequential Community Organizing Grants, they must wait at least two years before receiving another grant from this fund.

Organizations without Tax-Exempt (501c3) Status:

It is not necessary to have tax-exempt status to apply for a PDF grant. However, all funds provided by the Peace Development Fund must be used only to support activities that further the exempt purposes and activities of PDF, and grant recipients must submit reports to PDF as required by the grant contract.

Lobbying Activities:

As a public foundation, PDF makes a limited number of grants for lobbying activities. If you are applying for a lobbying grant, please indicate this in your grant proposal and specify whether you are seeking funds for grass-roots or direct lobbying. However, we cannot fund any effort that endorses a specific candidate for political office.

Use of Application Forms and all Consequent Reports:

The Peace Development Fund is not endowed and each year must raise all grantmaking and operating funds. The information provided in your application, as well as in all subsequent reports, may be shared with our donors and/or used in our publications. This information is helpful in showing donors, potential donors and other PDF supporters specific tangible examples of what has already been accomplished with PDF grants, and how their continued support will further the work of organizations such as your own. If you would prefer that we do not share your information with our donors or in our publications, please let us know.

If you need additional information or have any questions, please feel free to contact us:

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