

## **Grant-making 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. 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.

Note: The most competitive applications will deeply embody ALL of these funding priorities

## What We Do Not Fund:

- **The Pioneer Valley Community Advised Fund does not fund programs with a primary geographic focus *outside of Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin counties in Massachusetts.***
- Organizations not directly engaged in community organizing,
- Social services that are not linked to a clear organizing strategy.
- Individuals, or organizations with strong leadership from only one individual.
- Conferences, trainings, and other one-time events.
- 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.
- Lobbying activities.

## Application Procedure

**READ:** Carefully read these guidelines!

**APPLY:** [Click here to complete our Application Form](#) . **Applications are due by December 29, 2020 at 5pm Eastern Standard Time.**

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.

**DECIDE:** Pioneer Valley Community Advised Fund Grants are reviewed by a Screening Committee, who decides, within *eight weeks of the deadline*, which applications will be invited into the grantmaking docket. All applicants will receive a notice about the decision.

If your organization is invited into the grantmaking docket:

- We will require additional material, which is due within *two weeks* of notification.
  - You will be invited to apply for The Sustainability Project, a three-year capacity building program.
  - We will schedule an interview with you and ask for references who can speak to the group's work.
- Decisions on grant awards are usually made within *four months* of the initial deadline.

**REPORT:** A final report is required within *ten months* of receiving the grant including: a written report describing the manner in which the funds have been spent and the progress made in accomplishing the purposes of the grant.

Groups that have received a grant from any PDF grantmaking fund (including Community Organizing and Donor Advised grants) due on or before March 31, 2021, and are seeking to apply should submit all grant reports by December 30, 2020. Groups who have not submitted final reports are ineligible for funding in this grants cycle.

## **Specific Information about PDF grants**

### **General Support vs. Project Support:**

PDF's Pioneer Valley Community Advised Fund Grants are offered for general operating support, and those grants are our priority. We believe that the people on the ground know how best to spend the money. If you choose to submit for project support, we will want to know why you have not applied for general operating; those factors will be taken into account during our review. There will need to be compelling reasons, and all other aspects of the organization will have to meet all other guidelines.

### **Size of Grants:**

**Typical Grant Range** \$500-\$3,000

### **Frequency and Number of Grants:**

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. PDF typically does not provide multi-year grants or commitments.

### **Organizations without Tax-Exempt (501c3) Status:**

It is *not necessary to have tax-exempt status to apply for a PDF grant.* However, all grant funds 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.

Each applicant or the applicant's fiscal sponsor must have a Federal Employer Identification Number (EIN).

### **Use of Application Forms and all Consequent Reports:**

The Peace Development Fund is not endowed and each year must raise all grantmaking funds. The information provided in this application, on reference calls, as well as in all subsequent reports, may be shared with our donors and/or used in our publications and outreach. This information is helpful in showing donors, potential donors and other PDF supporters specific tangible examples of what you accomplish with PDF grants, and how donors' 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 and outreach, please let us know.

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

Peace Development Fund

413-256-8306

peacedevfund@gmail.com - [www.peacedevelopmentfund.org](http://www.peacedevelopmentfund.org)