



Community Organizing Grants

Updated November 2025

The Peace Development Fund (PDF) believes peace is a consequence of equitable relationships, and it can only be sustained when rooted in justice. There must be seismic shifts in our relations with each other and the planet to bring about a true and lasting peace. We believe those shifts can only come from bold and powerful movements for justice led by the people closest to the pain caused by our current world. We fund community organizing to power the movements that will make a just world possible.

Once a year, PDF accepts applications for our *Community Organizing Grants (COG)*. Applications open in November and close at the end of January. All applicants are notified of first round decisions in March, which tell you if you are declined or will go to the second round. Second round applicants are notified of final award decisions in early May. Making it to the second round does *not* guarantee funding.

Eligible applicants must:

- Have an annual budget of \$250,000 or under
- Be in the United States, Mexico, or Haiti
- Have 501(c)3 tax status or a US-based fiscal sponsor
- Have a clear and concrete connection to community organizing

If applicants have received three consecutive years of funding from us, they must take a two year pause on applying to community organizing funds. They will be eligible to apply again in two years.

Applicants can apply to one of the three funds under the COG umbrella:

- **Braiding New Worlds Fund** – This fund is for youth-led and youth-focused organizing. Groups should actively challenge adultism and have young people in positions of consequence within the organization. This year the fund is very interested in applications from youth-led organizations working on economic justice, housing, immigration, climate, healing justice, and tech. The average grant from Braiding New Worlds is \$3,000.
- **Western Massachusetts Transformation Fund** – This fund is for community organizing groups in Western Massachusetts. Organizations applying to this fund should live and work in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire, or Hampden County. The average grant from WMTF is \$4,000.
- **Seeding the Movement Fund** – This fund is for any community organizing group in the United States, Mexico, or Haiti. This year we are particularly interested in organizations who build the movement for justice. To us, that means you are actively expanding and cultivating your base of active members or are a movement support organization that trains and sustains movement leaders. The average grant from STM is \$7,000.

Applicants can apply online using our grants portal. [Click here](https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=peacefund) or copy and paste the following web address into your browser: <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=peacefund>. There is one application for all community organizing grant funds, labeled “Community Organizing Grants 2026.” A copy of our application can be found on our website.

What we fund

We fund small organizations that engage in or directly support *community organizing*. Community organizing builds power in communities impacted by injustice. It can look like many different things, but usually includes the following: building relationships, developing leaders, creating a shared analysis of problems, and running campaigns that use collective action.

Our *Four Pillars of Community Organizing* (explained below) guides our next level of application review. All our partners deeply embody each of the four pillars. Funds may have additional strategic priorities depending on their stated purpose or analysis of the current social, political, and economic moment.

PDF's Four Pillars of Community Organizing

- **Shift Power** – Your organization brings people together to take coordinated action that changes institutional practices. The institution could be a government, hospitals, corporations, schools, or any powerful group that is causing inequity. You should be led by a base that is most impacted by the systemic issue the group is organizing around.
- **Build a Movement** – Your organization takes meaningful action to expand membership without compromising your vision. You build capacity and leadership within your organization and among your local ally organizations. PDF believes organizational sustainability is key to building a movement, too. Your organization may have specific infrastructure or practices of care that ensure your people are around for the long haul.
- **Dismantle Oppression** – Your organization challenges institutional structures that result in unequal experiences for certain people. You have an array of loving internal practices or policies that work to end racism, classism, ageism, sexism, ableism, and all other harmful power dynamics within your organization.
- **Create New Structures** – Your organization practices new ways of doing things that are liberating, equitable, democratic, and sustainable. You have a clear understanding of how your new structures break away from old systems of oppression. Your vision is unafraid of fundamentally transforming political, social, and/or economic systems.

What we do not fund

PDF does not fund any of the following:

- Programs with a programmatic focus outside of the United States, Mexico, or Haiti
- Organizations whose primary work is not community organizing
- Social services, educational programs, or research 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
- Academic institutions and scholarships
- Other grantmaking organizations
- Lobbying activities