



Guidelines for Grant Seekers

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. 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.

What We Fund – Our 4 Pillars of Grantmaking

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:

- **We do not fund programs with a primary geographic focus *OUTSIDE* of the United States, U.S. Territories, Mexico and Haiti.** If an organization is U.S.-based but works mostly outside of these areas, it should consider filling out a Letter of Intent for a Donor Advised Fund grant, which are reviewed on a rolling basis.
- **Organizations with budgets larger than \$250,000.**
- 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 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).
- Lobbying activities.

Grantmaking Funds at PDF

PDF oversees several grant programs that have specific purposes.

- **Community Organizing Grants** – A highly competitive national grant opportunity for organizations that fulfill all the funding priorities listed above.
Typical Grant Range: \$2,500-\$7,500
- **Pioneer Valley Community Advised Fund** - A fund open to organizations in Hampden, Hampshire, and Franklin Counties in Massachusetts, qualified under the funding priorities listed above. Grant allocation is recommended by a committee of community members.
Typical Grant Range: \$500-\$4,000
- **De Colores Rapid Response Fund** - A fund focused on needs for rapid response community organizing for organizations who qualify under the funding priorities listed above and are based in the US or US Territories.
Typical Grant Range: \$500-\$1,000

General Support vs. Project Support:

Most PDF Grants are offered for general operating support (with the exception of the De Colores Rapid Response Fund), 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.

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).

Application Procedure

READ: Carefully read these guidelines!

APPLY: [Community Organizing Grants](#) or Pioneer Valley Community Advised Fund [Click to Apply](#)
-- Opens December 1, 2021. **Due by December 29, 2021 at 5pm Eastern Standard Time.**

De Colores Rapid Response Fund [Click to Fill Out an Interest Form](#)
-- **Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.**

We only accept applications online, unless an exception is given beforehand. At this time, applications can only be accepted in English. If you need audio/visual or other accommodations, please contact our office.

DECIDE: **Community Organizing and 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.

-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.

De Colores Rapid Response Fund Grants are screened by PDF Staff. After you fill out the Interest Form (link above), we will contact you to set up an interview if your organization qualifies and is being considered for a grant.

REPORT: A final report is required within *10 months* of receiving a Community Organizing and Pioneer Valley Community Advised Fund Grants and within *3 months* of receiving a De Colores Rapid Response Fund Grant.

Reports should include: 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, 2022, and are seeking to apply should submit all grant reports by March 11, 2022.

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 or Pioneer Valley Community Advised Fund Grants, they must wait at least two years before applying for these funds. PDF typically does not provide multi-year grants or commitments.

Use of Application Forms and all Future 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. 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:

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