COVID-19 Recovery Grants for Nonprofits
Request for Proposals (RFP)

Release date: Thursday, September 17, 2020

Propel Nonprofits is seeking proposals for COVID-19 Recovery Grants for Nonprofits. Nonprofits and fiscally sponsored organizations invited to apply are those led by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and serving BIPOC communities, with an organizational budget size between $100,000 and $2 million, and that has been in operation a minimum of 1 year. Grants awarded will be general operating funds; will benefit organizations across various fields of service; and will benefit culturally specific and historically underserved communities.

These grants are intended to support nonprofits in their response to and recovery from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, including resulting financial impacts on operations and effects on communities served.

Propel’s COVID-19 Recovery Grants for Nonprofits are made possible with funding from the Minnesota Disaster Recovery Fund (MDRF), created by the Minnesota Council on Foundations and Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation to support community needs as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

**Key Dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date/Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RFP announced:</td>
<td>Thursday, September 17, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposals due:</td>
<td>Thursday, October 8, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community RFP informational webinars:</td>
<td>September 24, 2020 at 12pm (noon)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Available for technical assistance via phone/email/virtual</td>
<td>September 17 to October 8, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication with grantees</td>
<td>Week of October 19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grant agreements completed by:</td>
<td>Friday, October 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards announced:</td>
<td>Week of October 26</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Contact Propel Staff**
612.249.6700 | grants@propelnonprofits.org
GUIDELINES AND APPLICATION

Organization Eligibility Criteria
The primary organization eligibility criteria are:

- Existing Minnesota nonprofits or fiscally sponsored organizations led by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and serving BIPOC communities. Defined as:
  - Executive Director identifies as BIPOC, OR 50 percent of voting board members identify as BIPOC
- Organizational budget size between $100,000 to $2 million
- Organization has been in operation a minimum of 1 year

For additional information, or to register for an informational webinar, visit www.propelnonprofits.org/covid-19-recovery-grants-for-nonprofits

Anticipated Grant Term and Amount
Propel Nonprofits is seeking to fund 15-20 organizations to support their recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The anticipated grant terms and goals are:

1. Award between 15-20 grants (at least half of grants will go to organizations with a budget under $500,000)
2. Award grants up to $13,000
3. Provide post-award technical assistance to grantees in financial administration and other nonprofit finance, strategy, and governance areas for 6-month term

RFP Review Process
Propel Nonprofits staff will review and select the grant recipients. The team will ensure that applicants meet the organizational eligibility criteria. In addition to these base requirements, other priorities will guide the selection process.

- Support both organizations in Greater Minnesota and the Twin Cities
- Support multiple BIPOC communities
- Support organizations that provide different types of services – arts, workforce development, education, etc.
- Support both established and smaller, growing organizations whose work is relevant to current community needs

There will be no firm requirements for these priorities; they will guide the selection process. Knowing that different factors, such as the number of applicants, can make balancing some of these priorities difficult, our intent is to be equitable across priority areas to organizations most impacted by COVID-19.

Applying for the grant
All proposals must be submitted using the online form by Thursday, October 8, 2020, at 5 pm. No late applications will be accepted.
Please complete the following questions in the online application.

Organizational Information
Organization Name
Grant Contact First Name
Grant Contact Last Name
Grant Contact Phone Number
Grant Contact email
Organization Address Line 1
Organization Address Line 2
If organization is fiscally sponsored, fiscal sponsor Organization Name

Narrative questions

The intent of the COVID-19 Recovery Grants is to support BIPOC-led organizations in recovering from the impact of the pandemic on their nonprofit organizations and the communities in which they are rooted.

1. Tell us about your organization, its mission, its connection to BIPOC communities in Minnesota, and how it serves those communities. (350 word max)*

We recognize that COVID-19 is affecting BIPOC communities disproportionately and are seeking to understand how nonprofit organizations led by BIPOC leaders and serving BIPOC communities are being affected.

2. How has COVID impacted your organization? - Have you had to change how you deliver your services? Reduce staff? Shift resources to respond to a new community need? - How has COVID impacted your focus communities? (350 word max)*

The pandemic has compelled many nonprofits to take immediate action to remain relevant and sustainable. Now, six months into the pandemic, some nonprofit organizations are thinking about how to navigate the pandemic for the long term.

3. What are your next steps to recover to your pre-COVID state or to advance to a new COVID state? What has been the most challenging barrier(s) to recovering to pre-COVID state or advancing to a new COVID reality for your organization? (350 word max)*

These funds will support BIPOC-led nonprofit organizations to recover from the impact of COVID-19 on their programming, funding streams, and communities.

4. How will this funding support the removal of barriers listed above or the advancing to a new COVID reality? What are your immediate needs of financial funds for your organization or the community you are serving? (350 word max)*
**Attachments**

Please attach the following documents to the online application:

- Last year-end financial statements (Audit, Financial reports [income statement and balance sheet] or IRS 990)
- Current, board approved organization budget for current year
- 501(c)(3) determination letter (if fiscally sponsored, attach fiscal sponsor organization IRS letter)
- List of current board members