



A Collective Giving and Endowment Fund of the Foundation For The Carolinas

2020 GRASSROOTS LANE GRANTS – APPLICATION GUIDE

For the period July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

For the 2020 grants cycle, Charlotte Lesbian and Gay Fund (CLGF) will award grants to Charlotte-area organizations serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ+) community.

Grassroots Lane Grants are intended to build capacity and strengthen the effectiveness of startup organizations with or without 501(c)(3) nonprofit status whose primary objective is to serve the Charlotte-Mecklenburg LGBTQ+ community. Eligible organizations will provide at least 75% of their services and utilize at least 75% of their budget within the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area. Allowing CLGF to reach organizations with unmet needs that fall outside of current Basic Operating and Programs, Projects and Events (PPE) grant parameters, Grassroots Lane grants will be awarded to support general operations as specified in the grant proposal that fulfill the vision on CLGF:

“...to cultivate one community with the belief that all people should be treated with respect and dignity.”

This document is meant to be a guide for applicants as they complete the application process.

CLGF has limited discretionary funds. Therefore, many exemplary proposals may not be funded or may not be fully funded. In these instances, applicant may request feedback from CLGF.

To conduct a fair and ethical grants program, a Conflict of Interest Policy is followed by all volunteers and staff of CLGF regarding the grant process for an organization with which they are affiliated. Please do not lobby Board or Grant Committee members on behalf of your organization.

For questions, contact Alexis Owens at Foundation For The Carolinas, aowens@fftc.org.

Basic steps in this grant cycle are as follows:

- Applicant sends an email to CLGF requesting an application: gayfund@gmail.com
- Grant application is completed and submitted online by applicant
- Grants Committee reviews application and may meet with applicant
- Grants Committee recommends funding to the Board of Advisors, who determines funding; applicant notified
- After funds are expended, CLGF contacts fiscal sponsor (if present) to ensure grant funds were used as intended
- Grantee submits an evaluation on use and impact of funds to CLGF

AREAS TYPICALLY NOT FUNDED

- Capital campaigns and endowment funds
- Organizations for re-granting purposes
- Debt retirement/deficit funding
- Programs, projects and events, the proceeds thereof, that financially benefit other organizations.
- Projects that promote policy advocacy, political activity or religious views
- Activities occurring prior to grant decision
- Projects typically the funding responsibility of federal, state or local government
- New proposals that duplicate existing or established programs or services
- Strategic planning in “ordinary course of business”
- Publication of books

GRANT REQUIREMENTS

- Grant awards will be made to organizations with or without 501(c)(3) nonprofit status.
- Receiving organizations with 501(c)(3) status should have received nonprofit designation within the last 12 months.
- Receiving organizations without 501(c)(3) must partner with an established organization with 501(c)(3) nonprofit status that will serve as a fiscal sponsor. This sponsor will certify that grant funds were spent as outlined in the grantee’s application.
- Fiscal sponsor must attest that at least 75% of their services are provided and at least 75% of their budget is utilized within the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area.
- Grassroots Lane grants are only awarded to organizations whose primary objective is to provide services or benefits to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg LGBTQ+ community.
- Applicants may apply for ONE Grassroots Lane grant per annual cycle.
- The CLGF Board and Grants Committee reserve the right to request additional information at any time.
- Grant funds not spent for approved purposes specified in the grant application and within the specific period must be returned to CLGF.
- Applicant organizations must attest that at least 75% of their services are provided and at least 75% of their budget is utilized within the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area, and must agree to use grant funds solely within Mecklenburg County.
- Previous recipients of CLGF’s Basic Operating and Projects, Programs & Events (PPE) grants are not eligible to apply.

FUNDING PRIORITIES

Applicant organization’s services should support CLGF’s mission and vision by including these key components:

- **Build** understanding and appreciation as well as promote the value of inclusion within the organization’s circle of influence, especially LGBTQ+ populations not previously targeted.
- **Cultivate** opportunities for leadership by contributions of LGBTQ+ people.
- **Engage** and include all people from diverse backgrounds, and sexual orientation and gender identify in programs, services and organizational values.

FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS

As you complete your application, give special consideration to documenting these priorities that will be used in grant evaluations.

- **Scope of impact:** This organization has a positive impact on its audience and the Charlotte LGBTQ+ community.
- **Nurtures individuals to actualize their potential:** This organization supports individuals within the LGBTQ+ community as they make their personal journey through acceptance, pride, support of community and leadership.
- **Presents a positive image of LGBTQ+ people to the community:** This organization presents a fair and positive understanding of people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer.
- **Effectiveness:** This organization is an effective way of providing the services and benefits it offers.
- **Diversity:** This organization engages and includes people from diverse backgrounds.
- **Defined measures:** This organization identifies clear objectives and uses metrics and measures to define a successful outcome.
- **Budget:** This organization's budget presents reasonable costs for services performed and an efficient way to achieve the objectives.
- **Organizational experience:** This organization has the appropriate talent, skills and experience to execute its objectives and effectively utilize grant funds.

GRANT EVALUATION REPORTS

- CLGF takes its governance role very seriously and must ensure that grant award funds are spent appropriately and as intended. With limited funds to award, CLGF also monitors the effectiveness of funds spent to ensure grants are meeting community needs and prioritized efficiently.
- Each grant recipient is therefore required to submit an Evaluation Report, outlining the results and effectiveness of how the funds were spent. **Not completing an evaluation on time may jeopardize future grant participation.**
- Evaluation Reports are also used for CLGF communications and may be used as input in future grant decisions for your organization.
- **Evaluation Reports are due 30 days after the date of full use of funds.**

GRANT USE DEADLINE

- Grassroots Lane grant funds must be used within 6 months of receipt. Funds not used by this date must be returned to the CLGF.
- A Grants Committee member will be assigned to each grantee for monitoring purposes.