Fund for Progress on Race in America

Q&A

**Question 1:** Can a single organization be awarded $40,000 each for two separately proposed projects? Or is $40,000 the max amount that any single organization can receive?

**Answer:** Any organization can be awarded up to two grants, each with a maximum value of $40,000.

**Question:** Our 2015 990 will not be ready by the deadline, may we submit our 2014 990 instead?

**Answer:** Yes

**Question:** Our organization is not required to file form 990; what should we file in its place?

**Answer:** Please provide internally created annual financial statements for the most recently completed fiscal year with certification that the Board has reviewed.

**Question:** Do you have written guidelines or limitations for the per diem for travel expenses or overhead expenses to be included in the budget?

**Answer:** We have no set guidelines. With the understanding that you would be spending donated funds, our expectation is that your per diem and overhead rates would be reasonable and customary within that frame. Please provide amounts that are customary and reasonable given the expected outcome of the program/project.

**Question:** Are administrative expenses permitted? Are fundraising expenses permitted?

**Answer:** We understand that all programs need some level of administrative support so including that in your budget is fully expected. Fundraising costs however, if included in the budget overall, are appropriate only if it is clear that no grant funds will be allocated to cover the cost of fundraising.

**Question:** Should we include in-kind donations in our budget?

**Answer:** Yes. Please provide the estimated value of any in-kind contributions.
**Question 2:** We work in communities with large economic and educational disparities that commonly fall along racial lines. If our work addresses these disparities but does so without a mission that specifically addresses race are we eligible to apply?

**Answer:** We welcome any applications for which the applicant can describe how their project would serve one or more of the four grant purposes. Where possible, show in your application how the proposed project does so.

**Question:** Can this grant be used internally for organizational change or in-house projects?

**Answer:** Yes. In the application describe how doing so would serve one or more of the grant purposes.

**Question:** Is there a specific starting date for projects?

**Answer:** There is no specific required start date, though the start and end dates must be defined in the application.

**Question:** Is there any plan/strategy for publicizing the results of the completed work?

**Answer:** There is currently no detailed plan to publicize the results of completed work; however A+E and United Way Worldwide would work closely with grant awardees to disseminate information about the projects funded and their results to the appropriate extent.

**Question:** Are you able to consider projects that have lobbying as a component if the applicant can show that they have sufficient funds to ensure that no grant funding would be spent on lobbying?

**Answer:** Grant funds can be used to support larger efforts that have other funding streams. Your program budget should detail how Fund for Progress on Race in America grants funds will be used, with none of those funds being used for lobbying purposes or other purposes precluded by the US Tax Code as outlined on this site.

**Question:** If a project involves multiple activities, does each activity require its own application or can the activities be combined into one application?

**Answer:** A program with multiple components can be applied for in one grant submission or separated into multiple submissions. Any organization is eligible to receive up to two grant awards. We recommend basing your decision on how the number of programs included would affect the
strength of the application(s) and if the budget for all components fits within the $40,000 grant award cap.

**Question:** Besides the exceptions listed on your website for use of funds, are there any other "less desirable" uses for the funds?

**Answer:** So long as the application meets all the eligible requirements and outlined fund purposes, all applications will receive the same level of review. We recommend making the strongest case for why your proposed activities align with the grant purposes and outline the expected outcomes.

**Question:** If you are a new organization with newly granted 501(c)(3) status and a fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, and have yet to file your first 990 form and do not have an audited financial statement for the first year of operation can we provide our approved Operating Budget for FY2016? Will we need any other specific documentation?

**Answer:** Please provide your most recent internally-generated budget to actual for the most recent month or fiscal year.

**Question:** Do you have resources or examples of best practices for measuring success?

**Answer:** We do not have any specific guidance or recommendations for how to measure outcomes. How each applicant chooses to do so will be tailored to the specific nature of the proposed project.

**Question:** Will this grant program favor larger organizations asking for the maximum award or will smaller organizations/programs seeking smaller amounts be just as competitive?

**Answer:** All eligible applications will receive equal consideration independent of the amount of money being requested or size of the organization.

**Question:** At what point will it be determined whether the funds will be distributed in one or two installments? If in two installments, when does the second installment get distributed?

**Answer:** The decision on whether to fund the grant in one or multiple installments will be determined on an individual basis on factors including the requested size of the grant and program timeline. The second installment would likely be distributed at a midway point in the grant, based on the mid-term
reporting. UWW will however work with grant recipients to determine a reporting and disbursement schedule that works best for all parties and is tailored to the specific program to be funded.

**Question:** Is the grant reimbursement based? Meaning, will we be required to submit receipts?

**Answer:** Receipts will not be required but the financial reporting will require information on budgets to actual spend.

**Question:** Are municipalities and educational organizations eligible to apply?

**Answer:** A municipality/college/university would qualify for grant consideration as long as contributions to the specific division/arm of the municipality/college/university qualify for tax deductions by an individual donor. Additionally, we would need some certification, in writing, that these contributions to the specific division/arm of the municipality are tax deductible.

**Question:** Would you accept multiple applications from a single organization?

**Answer:** There is no limit to the number of applications an eligible organization can submit. There is however a limit to the number of grants that can be awarded to any organization (2 grants).

**Question:** Is there a time parameter for when the activities of the grant need to take place? Do activities have to be completed by a certain time?

**Answer:** While there are no strict requirements, given the size of grants we recommend that the program be limited to 24 months. This is however not a requirement.

**Question:** Is there a certain scope of impact the fund is looking for?

**Answer:** The fund will consider awarding grants of various scopes and sizes. We ask you to describe the expected impact. Please also refer to the posted evaluation criteria to understand how grants will be evaluated.

**Question:** Is there a percentage above which you'd like to avoid funding a program?
Answer: We welcome matching or complementary funding sources for a project, but do not have a specific preferred percentage of a project that we are looking to fund.

Question: Can an applicant bring in media entities as a partner?

Answer: There is no restriction on bringing in other media entities as a partner.

Question: What will grant reporting requirements look like?

Answer: Reporting requirements are currently under development, but will include information of amounts and categories where money was spent and results relative to the goal. Reporting will be used to determine if the program is on track.

Question: Is this a one time funding cycle?

Answer: It is anticipated that there will be one funding cycle; however the sponsors reserve the right to hold additional cycles, which would be publicized via email to those who have signed up for additional information and on the website.

Question: Are you looking for specific outcomes in terms of number of people reached or more in-depth programs that impact a smaller population?

Answer: We are looking to fund both types of projects and each application will be evaluated on its merits.

Question: Can grant funds be used to support general operating budgets?

Answer: Per the evaluation criteria, the stronger the case that can be made for outcomes of a project, the stronger the application will be considered.

Question: Can grant funds be used to fund a single event?

Answer: There are no restrictions on funding a single event.
**Question:** Is there a limit/restriction on the percentage of grant funds a fiscal sponsor receives?

**Answer:** There is no defined limit on the percentage of grant funds that a fiscal sponsor receives.