

## **Racial Justice and Equity Fund Guidelines**

### **Purpose of the fund**

As philanthropic leaders in south central New York, we stand with those who seek to eliminate racial injustice. We are committed to do our part both internally as an organization, and in the region. Systemic racism at the individual, community, and societal level cannot be addressed with one-time statements. Real change requires ongoing action borne out of hard work, difficult conversations, education and commitment. At the request and encouragement of community members, the Racial Justice and Equity Fund was established in 2020 by the Board of Directors of the Community Foundation to address the concerns of racial justice and equity in the region served by the Foundation with an initial seed grant of \$100,000.

### **Types of Projects, Programs, and Organizations Eligible for Support**

The Racial Justice and Equity Fund welcomes proposals from qualified non-profit 501c.3 organizations that seek to provide projects or programs that build community dialogue, increase the capacity of Black-led organizations supporting historically underserved communities, promote racial justice and equity, and counteract systemic racism, in the region served by the Foundation. New or established organizations, programs and projects serving BIPOC populations, are all invited to apply.

### **Inquiries**

To make an inquiry to the Racial Justice and Equity Fund, please go to [donorswhocare.org](https://donorswhocare.org) and log-in or create an account at the link provided under our “Grant Seekers” tab. After successfully logging on, click the highlighted link “Racial Justice and Equity Fund” and complete and submit the on-line Letter of Intent (LOI.) If the inquiry is in-line with our guidelines, you will be sent the link to complete the application. If not, Tina Barber, Program Officer will be in touch to discuss why you are not eligible to apply.

### **Application**

The Community Foundation accepts applications on-line. Visit [donorswhocare.org](https://donorswhocare.org) under the “Grant Seekers” tab for in-depth instructions and links to tutorial videos. Contact Tina Barber, Program Officer at [tbarber@donorswhocare.org](mailto:tbarber@donorswhocare.org) if you are unable to access information on-line or if you will need a paper application. Please do not submit a paper application unless you’ve been instructed to do so. Applicants to the Racial Justice and Equity Fund are asked to use the *Small Grants Application* found on the website.

### **Submission Deadline**

November 15, 2020

### **Please Note**

- An organization may submit only one proposal to the Racial Justice and Equity Fund during a calendar year.
- Organizations will be asked about their commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in their operations and programming.
- Organizations may not resubmit a proposal for a project previously funded or declined by the Community Foundation unless given permission to do so by Program Officer.

- All initial inquiries must be made no later than two weeks prior to the deadline.
- Capital requests (repairs, equipment, etc.) require a minimum of two estimates.

**Who May Qualify?**

- Any 501(c)(3) where a grant will benefit significantly (but not necessarily exclusively) residents of the Foundation’s service area: Broome, Chenango, Delaware, Otsego and/or Tioga counties.
- Certain local government agencies, municipalities and public-school systems within the Foundation’s service area.
- Organizations requiring a 501(c)(3) as a fiscal sponsor may be eligible to apply.

The areas of support for which qualified organizations may apply are listed below.

The minimum award will be \$500 and the maximum award will be \$10,000

**Program**

- Programs that address a specific, demonstrated community need.

**Capital**

- Proposals for property purchase, equipment purchase, facilities improvement, and capital campaigns. A minimum of 2 estimates must accompany a capital request.

**Operating Support**

- Proposals from established organizations (minimum of 10 years) that are in financial distress due to a reduction in traditional funding sources for operations (e.g. individual contributions, event revenue, federal/state/local budget reductions). We will also consider requests for short-term assistance that will improve long-term sustainability.

**Capacity Building**

- Proposals that build organizational capacity

**Economic and Community Development**

- Proposals that strengthen the community by strengthening the local economy and encourage local ownership and development of resources

**We do not consider requests for:**

- Funding to reimburse an organization for costs that were incurred prior to the date the grant was awarded.
- Funding to pay existing mortgages
- Grants to individuals
- Funding for religious purposes
- In general, funding to organizations that have so many counterparts (e.g. scout troops, ambulance squads, volunteer or municipal fire departments, individual schools within a school district, individual school classrooms, PTAs) that it would be difficult to assess the relative merits of similar proposals. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the Program Officer and Executive Director based on the urgency of the community need.

We are happy to answer any questions you may have about submission procedures or the development of your on-line application. Please contact Tina Barber, Program Officer, at 607-206-5180 or via e-mail: [tbarber@donorswhocare.org](mailto:tbarber@donorswhocare.org)