

The City Fund

A Fund Administered by
The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region



The City Fund

- \$15 million fund to support effective nonprofit organizations that provide services to residents of the District of Columbia
- The Fund is an outgrowth of the *One City Action Plan*
- The Fund will support the plan's overarching goals of growing and diversifying the District's economy; educating and preparing the workforce for the new economy; and improving the quality of life for all D. C. residents
- Grants of up to \$100,000 will be awarded for program support or capacity building support
- An organization may receive up to three-years of funding for program support (up to \$300,000)
- Capacity building grants are one-time grants, up to \$100,000 and can be implemented over a period of 1-3 years
- The Fund does not provide grants for general operating support

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Eligible applicants/requests:

- Nonprofit organizations with an active 501(c) 3 tax exemption with an operating budget of \$100,000 or more
- Nonprofit organizations serving District of Columbia residents. (The Fund does not support communities or residents outside of D.C.)
- Nonprofit organizations providing services in the following areas:
 - Arts
 - Education
 - Environment
 - Health
 - Public Safety
 - Senior Services
 - Workforce Development

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Ineligible applicants/requests:

- Organizations currently funded by The Children Youth Investment Trust Corporation
- Organizations located outside of the District of Columbia that do not have a mechanism of tracking/evaluating funding and program outcomes for services to D.C. residents
- Individuals, non-501(c) 3 organizations and advocacy organizations
- Programs/efforts housed at or fiscally sponsored by The Community Foundation
- Organizations that are not in good standing with District of Columbia nonprofit requirements
- The fund does not accept requests for General Operating Support-- Funding for an organization's day-to-day, ongoing expenses, such as salaries, utilities, office supplies, etc.

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Why is The Community Foundation administering this Fund?

- The Community Foundation is a 40-year old independent, public charity, with an independent Board of Trustees and grant review committee that has NO affiliation with the D.C. government
- Our sole mission is to strengthen the region by encouraging and supporting effective giving and providing leadership on critical issues facing the region
- In FY13, The Community Foundation made grants totaling more than \$67 million to nonprofit organizations. Approximately 65% of those dollars remained in the region

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Why is The Community Foundation administering this fund?

- We currently administer grantmaking from more than 700 individual charitable funds
- Assets in these funds total more than \$320 million
- The staff of the Community Foundation include:
program/grantmaking professionals; finance professionals;
marketing & communication professionals; and development and donor service professionals
- The average length of tenure of staff is 7 years

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How can my nonprofit organization apply?

- Step 1: Go to www.thecommunityfoundation.org to sign up for the mailing list (more info will be released as its available)
- Step 2: Carefully review the Request For Proposals/Guidelines
- Step 3: Participate in one of the webinars
- Step 4: Follow application instructions and ***deadlines***
- Note: the Community Foundation has an online application process and will not accept hard copies of proposals for this process.
- Notification regarding grant decisions will occur approximately 16 weeks after the proposal deadline

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Evaluation

- Evaluation will be conducted on two levels – at the grantee level and at the fund level
- Each grant recipient will be required to evaluate their programs/projects against measurable outcomes described in their proposal. Grantees will be required to submit an interim and final report. The reporting format will be provided to grantees
- The Fund and its overall performance will be evaluated by a third-party evaluator that will be identified by The Community Foundation through a competitive selection process
- The Fund will provide interim reports to the donor (The District of Columbia) every six months. These reports will include an accounting of distribution of grants and expenses, as well as any impact measures that can be reported (quantitative and qualitative) at those intervals

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General Evaluation Criteria

The RFP will spell out more defined evaluation criteria. The Community Foundation utilizes the following key criteria in its review of prospective grantees:

- Organizational History and Track Record
- Governance and Executive Leadership
- Organizational Vision and Strategy.
- Planning, Outcomes, and Evaluation
- Human Resources/Staff Capacity
- Financial Health

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Proposal Review and Selection Process

- All proposals will be reviewed by the DC Innovation Fund Grants Review Committee, an independent review committee
- Proposals recommended for funding by the Committee will be presented to The Community Foundation's Board of Trustees for final approval
- Notification regarding grant decisions will occur approximately 16 weeks after the proposal deadline

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Definitions

- **Program Support Grants:** Funding awarded for expenses related to a specific program. This may include ongoing expenses (i.e., salaries, utilities, office supplies, etc.), as long as they are program specific
- **Capacity Building Support Grants**– Funding for projects that strengthen the organization by investing in management, operations, and finance practices or an acquisition that strengthens the organization’s ability to carry out its mission. These may also include one-time projects that help with infrastructure needs such as technology
- **RFP/Guidelines** – The Request for Proposals/Guidelines provide criteria and instructions for completing your application to the DC Innovation Fund

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*Estimated Timeline** *Program Support Grants*

<i>Early October 2013</i>	CFNCR receives funding
<i>Early/mid October</i>	Release of RFP Webinars for Grantseekers
<i>November</i>	Proposal deadline
<i>November –February</i>	Proposal Review period
<i>March 2014</i>	Grant decisions announced
<i>April 2014</i>	Grants distributed

**Based on the timely receipt of funds from the District of Columbia*

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*Estimated Timeline** *Capacity Building Grants*

<i>Early October 2013</i>	CFNCR receives funding
<i>February 2014</i>	Release of Capacity Building RFP Webinars for Grantseekers
<i>March</i>	Proposal deadline
<i>March - June</i>	Proposal Review period
<i>July</i>	Grant decisions announced
<i>August</i>	Grants distributed

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