

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Communities Against Hate

Available to U.S. organizations responding to incidents of hate and deepening resiliency in local communities across the U.S.

The Open Society Foundations' U.S. Programs is pleased to offer this special initiative to support frontline communities and organizations in the U.S. in their efforts to de-escalate and head off future incidents of hate based on race, religion, national origin, gender and sexual orientation.

We expect questions about this funding opportunity and will update these Frequently Asked Questions as the need for additional guidance emerges. This version is current as of December 1, 2016.

1. *Questions About Process and Timing*

How much money has OSF made available for this initiative over what period of time?

A: This is meant as a rapid response to the spike in incidents of hate since the presidential election. At this time, OSF has allocated up to \$3 million and plans to accept applications through February 15, 2017, with the possibility of extension.

How many grants will OSF make?

A: We do not know. That will depend on the response to the call for applications, and the amounts granted to successful applicants.

What is the anticipated timeframe for making decisions on applications?

A: Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis and reviewed weekly. We aim to notify applicants of funding decisions within 10 days of receipt of a complete application, and we aim to issue a grant letter and payment within another 10 days.

How can applicants apply?

A: Applications must be submitted via OSF's online grantee portal as an attachment. The [application can be found here](#). Before you start the online application process, please review the instructions available here that explain how to register and apply through our online grantee portal.

The portal will collect basic information about your organization and the contact(s) at your organization responsible for your application, and it will allow you to upload attachments. The completed application is one attachment, and it will stand in for a proposal. Three additional supporting documents are required and can be submitted as attachments via the portal: 1) a brief budget for the project you are looking to fund; 2) current and previous year organizational budgets for your organization; and 3) if applicable, your organization's most recent audited financial statement or IRS Form 990.

Will OSF accept a standard proposal in place of the application? Or attachments to the application that provide greater detail about an applicant's project or programs than can be contained in the brief application?

A: No. To expedite grant decisions and funding, we strongly advise all applicants use the [application provided here](#). Decisions will be based on a review of the application and the required attachments (project budget, organizational budget, and audited financials or IRS Form 990 if applicable to your organization).

If OSF decides to fund a project, what is the timeline for receiving funds?

A: OSF is employing an expedited grant making process, and we aim to provide funding decisions within 10 days of receiving a complete application, a grant letter and payment within another ten days. In all, our goal is for the process to take not more than three weeks from submission to receipt of payment.

What is the anticipated grant period?

A: Not more than six months in most cases. We may extend the grant period to one year for projects with the goal of building community resilience to incidents of hate.

Are there grant reporting requirements?

A: Yes. All grantees will be required to submit brief narrative and financial reports at the end of the grant term. Guidance will be provided.

2. *Questions About Eligible Applicants*

Must applicants be 501(c)(3) U.S. Public Charities?

A: No. We welcome applications from groups that do not have this tax designation from the IRS. As a private foundation, OSF grants to such groups are subject to restrictions such as no re-granting to other organizations or to individuals. Our documentation standards and reporting requirements are also more substantial for such grants. Individuals and single-person LLCs are not eligible.

Must applicants be community-based organizations?

A: No. We expect the majority of requests for funding to come from community based organizations, but other with projects that fit the criteria are welcome to apply – volunteer, school or university based, affiliated with local government, etc.

Individuals and single-person LLCs are not eligible.

Why are you asking for an Employer Identification Number (EIN)?

A: An employer identification number (EIN) is a nine-digit number assigned by the IRS. OSF will use this number to verify an organization's tax-exempt status.

What if my organization is a funding intermediary, coalition or other collaboration that supports communities and the identified populations OSF wishes to support through this initiative?

A: Applications from intermediaries, coalitions and collaborations that support organizations and individuals who are frequent targets of hate are also welcome.

3. Questions About Eligible Projects

How does OSF define incident of hate?

A: For the purposes of this fund, incidents of hate include bullying, intimidation, bigoted slurs, assaults, desecration of houses of worship, and other acts.

What populations that are frequent targets of hate does OSF plan to support?

A: We are concerned about people of color, immigrants, refugees, Muslims, Jews and other people of faith, LGBTQ individuals, women, and others who find themselves to be targets of hate.

What are the non-negotiable elements each project must include?

A: Projects must aid people and organizations that are targets of hate, promote healing and community solidarity, or seek to prevent such incidents from occurring in the first place. Applicants' organizational strengths must include (1) positioning in their community as a trusted resource, led by the communities they serve and, responsive and accountable to those communities; (2) commitment to serving persecuted populations and the values of inclusion, diversity, fairness and equal protection; (3) longstanding track record of serving persecuted populations, protecting civil rights, and/or fighting against racism and discrimination.

What are some examples of project OSF would consider funding?

A: We expect that they could include: Direct services related to crisis response mental health services and post-trauma resilience supports; legal services; protection of physically vulnerable non-profit staff and organizational assets including data and communications security; efforts that include children and youth; alternatives to over-criminalization as a means of addressing hate violence such as mediation, community conferencing and other restorative alternatives to prosecution; efforts to work collaboratively across communities; local mechanisms to collect hate incident data; litigation; and public education and training programs.

What if my project is not on that list?

A: We intend this program to respond to what the most vulnerable communities believe is of greatest value to address the rise in hate incidents and other threats, and thus we aim to remain flexible and support an array of responses. If your project fits the funding criteria, you are welcome to apply.

4. *Assessment of Applications*

What criteria will OSF use to assess applications?

A: We will look for the following:

- Identification of at risk population(s) to be served
- Identification of incident, threat or risk and a need for urgent response
- Well thought out response with a clear set of goals and outcomes that can be achieved within six months.
- Organization's position in its community and capacity to carry out the project successfully

How will OSF determine how much funding to award to selected applicants?

A: OSF will provide non-renewable project grants ranging from \$15,000 to \$150,000. The grant amounts awarded will be scaled to the project and the organization's capacity.

5. *Sources of Additional Information*

Is there someone I can call or write to about this funding opportunity?

A: We have scheduled several conference calls to provide prospective applicants with information and answers to their questions. The first few conference calls are scheduled for December 7, 1-2pm Eastern, and December 15, 2-3pm Eastern. Additional calls will be scheduled in January. Registration is required [here](#).