

GUIDELINES

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 work to build vibrant and tolerant democracies whose governments are accountable and open to the participation of all people. In the United States, the foundations' work seeks to promote full participation in the nation's civic, political, and economic life—particularly for communities that are historically marginalized and vulnerable—and to ensure that the core institutions of civil society are effective and accountable to the public.

With this mission and values, it has been alarming to follow the surge in incidents of hate in the weeks since the presidential election. Open Society applauds the many local and national leaders, community-based organizations, and families who are rising to this challenge and reaffirming core American ideals. In solidarity with and support of communities and vulnerable populations across the country that are dealing with the fallout from hate incidents, Open Society has made an initial allocation of \$3 million available through this open call for applications. Open Society Foundations' aim is to provide communities on the frontlines of dealing with hate with a quick infusion of resources that can aid in resisting the spread of hate and strengthening protections and assistance for those who are targets of harassment, intimidation, vandalism and violence.

About This Initiative

This is a rapid response fund that will support local 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. For the purposes of this fund, incidents of hate include bullying, intimidation, bigoted slurs, assaults, desecration of houses of worship, and other acts. Open Society hopes these rapid response grants will promote the values of inclusion, diversity, fairness, and equal protection, and empower and equip individuals, institutions, organizations, and local communities across the social, racial, ethnic, and faith spectrum to stand together against hate. We also want to ensure that incidents are included, tracked and aggregated in local and national databases and increase public awareness and solidarity.

The grants Open Society Foundations will make through this call for applications are part of a broader emergency response to the uptick in incidents of hate in the United States. Through a separate grant making process that is by invitation only, OSF will provide 1) support that aims to develop a national referral network that will channel

requests for legal and social services to those who have experienced acts of hate; 2) support new efforts to document and aggregate incidents of hate as they happen, and categorize them by type of offense, targeted community, and geographic location; and 3) support efforts to increase public awareness of the scale and scope of hate incidents, with the goal of encouraging investigation of these offenses by state and local authorities as well as the Department of Justice. In addition to these short-term measures, the initiative will seek to help bolster communities' longer-term resilience and capacity to stand up to hate and overcome it.

Eligibility Criteria

Open Society Foundations will quickly direct resources to organizations and collaborative efforts that are well positioned in their communities to provide support, services, technical assistance, prevention, outreach, community reconciliation and public education to individuals and organizations dealing with acts of hate. We intend this program to respond to what communities believe is of greatest value to address the rise in hate incidents and other threats to vulnerable populations and thus aim to remain flexible and support an array of responses. 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.

Projects must be:

- (1) Responsive to a specific incident, threat or risk and benefit one or more of the frequently persecuted populations mentioned above;
- (2) Timely, urgent, and concrete - the event or situation you are responding to requires immediate action that is well thought out with a clear set of goals and outcomes that can be achieved within six months.

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.

Ineligibility Criteria

Individuals and single-person LLCs are not eligible.

Unlawful activity restrictions: OSF funding cannot be used to support activities that encourage individuals to break the law (by trespassing, for instance.)

Political Campaign Activity/Electioneering restrictions: This initiative will not fund any political campaign or electioneering activities, including the support for or opposition to political candidates or parties in the United States or abroad.

Lobbying restrictions: This initiative will not fund lobbying or attempts to influence legislative bodies or call the general public to act regarding specific legislation or legislative proposals or attempts to influence the outcome of referenda and ballot initiatives.

Streamlined Process and Accelerated Timeline

Open Society Foundations will provide non-renewable project grants ranging from \$15,000 to \$150,000 to community-based organizations for projects of six months' or one year duration. Applications from funding intermediaries and coalitions that support organizations responding to incidents of hate are also welcome. 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. Given the rapid response nature of these grants, this special initiative is employing a streamlined grant process to review funding requests on an expedited basis, distribute money quickly to communities, and allow grantees to get to work fast. 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. At this time we plan to accept applications through February 15. (This deadline may be extended based on the response.)

Assessment of Applications

Applications will be evaluated by panels of Open Society staff, which will base their recommendations to fund or not on the following considerations:

- Identification of at risk population(s) to be served
- Identification of incident, threat or risk and a need for urgent response
- Organization's position in its community and capacity to carry out the project successfully

How to Apply

Please fill out the [application found here](#), and use the Open Society Foundations' online grantee portal to upload your application as an attachment using this [link](#). When you do so, the portal will collect basic information about your organization and the contact(s) at your organization responsible for your application. 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.

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.

For Further Information

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about this initiative can be found [here](#).

Conference calls for prospective applicants will be held periodically. Additional questions about the grant guidelines can be directed to community.grants@opensocietyfoundations.org. Please direct any technical support questions about the online grantee portal to granteefeedback@opensocietyfoundations.org. We actively monitor these accounts and will respond on a timely basis.