



2023 Core Grant Program

The core grant program provides multi-year, **general operating support** to organizations serving young people and their families and communities in the Greater Philadelphia Region in an effort to address racial inequity and social injustice. Core grants are awarded as **three-year grants** with a **grant size of \$60,000** (20k paid annually).

Eligibility

The Foundation will consider general operating requests from nonprofit organizations that:

- work to ensure that young people in Greater Philadelphia experience their futures in healthy, thriving, and prosperous communities.
- work to eliminate racial and social inequities through direct service or advocacy/systems change work focusing on eliminating systemic inequities for young people, their families, and communities
- demonstrate a commitment to equity in internal and external operations.
- have total annual expenses of less than \$2.5 million
- focus primarily on serving young people, their families, and communities suffering from the effects of systemic racism, inequity, and injustice. The majority of services should be provided in Greater Philadelphia (including Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties).
- have an independent 501(c)3 tax status. We also accept applications from organizations with a fiscal sponsor or local affiliates of national umbrella organizations. For local affiliates, there must be local staff and a local board/advisory board in place.
- do not provide programming that is solely “drop-in,” infrequent, or less than four weeks in duration.

Applications will NOT be accepted from hospitals or medical facilities, schools (private, public, or charter), colleges/universities, or daycare facilities. The Foundation will not support individuals, scholarship programs, fundraising events, medical expenses, or religious activities.

Application Process

Any potential applicant who believes that their organization or program aligns with the Foundation's mission, vision, values and strategic priorities and meets the eligibility criteria may apply via the online application portal, accessible via the Foundation's website.

There is one grant cycle each year for this program. LOIs may be submitted any time between January 1-March 1. If invited to apply, application forms will be due April 15. Staff and board will review applications, and grants will be approved at the end of June. Payments are processed quickly after the approval and signature of electronic grant award agreements by grantees.

There are no interim reporting requirements. Foundation staff will schedule brief check-in calls and will complete at least one site visit during the grant period. There will be a final report due 30 days after the end of the multi-year grant. The report will serve as part of a streamlined grant renewal process.

Evaluation Criteria and Considerations

The Nelson Foundation will consider the following when evaluating applications:

- Is there a steadfast and unwavering commitment to ensure that young people in the Greater Philadelphia Region experience their futures in healthy, thriving, and prosperous communities?
- Is the organization serving youth who are adversely affected by white dominance and systemic oppression?
- What is the potential for eliminating systemic oppression, inequities, and social injustices?
- How are the voices of youth, families, and communities served elevated and incorporated into the work? Is the organization responsive to feedback? How does the organization build community trust?
- What is the level of commitment to diversity and community representation in staff leadership, other staff, and the board? How is DEI incorporated into the organizational culture?
- How does the organization collaborate and cultivate partnerships? Does The Nelson Foundation believe it could build a strong, transparent relationship with this organization?
- If the Foundation funds the organization, will it have sufficient strength of leadership (staff and board) and adequate resources (e.g., financial, staffing, facilities) to meet its objectives?
- What is the organization's level of willingness to learn, adapt, and be open to new solutions? Does the organization provide opportunities for staff and board to advance their professional development, build new skills, and gain new knowledge?

Additional Information

The Nelson Foundation's website has been updated with these details, additional instructions, and PDF versions of the LOI and application forms for the Core Grant Program. In addition, we will hold **virtual informational sessions on January 18 at 10:00 AM and February 7 at 1:00 PM**. Registration links are available on the Nelson Foundation website at www.nelsonfoundationpa.org.