

Spring 2020 Grant Round

Information Session



What is Diverse City Fund?

Diverse City Fund (DC Fund) is a grantmaking organization dedicated to racial justice.

We fund and support efforts in Washington, DC, led by and rooted in communities of color to realize liberation, spark solutions, organize against oppression of all kinds, and create systemic change.

16 grant rounds (since 2011)

337 grants made to grassroots organization

\$1,041,650 and counting awarded

What makes DC Fund different?

- ★ Our grant decisions are made by a separate Grantmaking Team composed of activists of color who are rooted in DC and its social justice work—not our board, staff, or donors.
- ★ We fund community-level projects with less access to traditional funding sources, including groups that:
 - ☆ Are volunteer-led
 - ☆ Are new or getting off the ground
 - ☆ Are politically-radical or activist initiatives
 - ☆ Do not have 501(c)(3) nonprofit status

What do we fund?

The Diverse City Fund awards grants to groups that seek to transform DC into a more just, vibrant place to live. We do this through funding groups with:

- ★ A vision for creating social justice and structural change to dismantle oppressive systems.
- ★ A focus on community building, community organizing, or other community work to engage others in transformation.
- ★ Alignment to DC Fund's working definition of social justice.

Working Definition of Social Justice (abridged)

While we recognize that justice and accountability will look different to every community, the Diverse City Fund invests in social justice projects which:

- ★ Amplify the leadership and voice of those directly-affected by issues and needs.
- ★ Take action to create equitable outcomes and transfer of power and resources to directly-affected communities.
- ★ Tackle root problems by engaging directly-affected communities to find solutions, organize against oppression of all kinds, and create mechanisms for change.

What groups are eligible for funding?

To be eligible for a grant from the Diverse City Fund, an organization or project must:

- ★ Be an organized group of people or a coalition/alliance of groups (we do not fund individuals).
- ★ Be based in and carry out the majority of its work in the District of Columbia.
- ★ Consist of residents of color as the primary participants and leadership.
- ★ Not have received a grant from the Diverse City Fund in the last year (i.e. groups that received funding in fall 2019 are not eligible in spring 2020).

How does our grantmaking work?

- ★ Two grant rounds each year
 - ☆ Spring (typically runs March - May)
 - ☆ Fall (typically runs September - November)
- ★ 2020 - \$300,000 in grants (\$150k each round)
- ★ Individual groups and organizations can apply for up to \$5,000
- ★ Coalitions can apply for up to \$15,000

How does DC Fund define a coalition?

Coalitions/Alliances are multi-issue, multi-constituent alliances of social change groups led by and organized in communities of color in DC. For the purposes of our grantmaking, a coalition may be:

- ★ an existing organization with at least three (3) member organizations or
- ★ an alliance of at least three (3) independent groups* working together.

*An organization established as a coalition may apply for this grant if all the funding will be going directly to the coalition (and not the members in the coalition). You must show that the coalition is an existing organization with a history of work in DC.

A Coalition/alliance application is still eligible if some (but not most) of the partner organizations are not led by people of color. However, the people leading the work of the coalition/alliance must be people of color.

What are some other funding priorities?

DC Fund accepts and prioritizes grant applications from groups engaging in the following types of work:

- ★ **Mobilization** – groups mobilizing people for protest and resistance
- ★ **Organizing and Advocacy** – groups engaged in organizing and advocacy, particularly around funding for public programs and services
- ★ **Healing, Inspiration, and Liberation** – groups that bring people of color together for cultural and mental liberation, the individual level work that prepares people to resist

How do I apply?

To access the online application: **[www. diversecityfund.org/apply](http://www.diversecityfund.org/apply)**

Deadline: **Friday, May 1, 2020**

For questions or support (incluyendo apoyo en Espanol):

info@diversecityfund.org or (202) 709-7038

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Applicants should expect to hear back with grant decision by early to mid-June