

Hawai'i People's Fund Grantmaking

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

❖ Are we eligible to apply?

Be sure to carefully review the funding guidelines before writing a grant proposal. We also encourage you to call or email our Community Grants Program Coordinator to discuss your plans and see if it is a good fit.

❖ What issue areas are funded?

The broad categories of work that Hawai'i People's Fund supports include:

•Cultural Activism • Human and Civil Rights • Environmental Justice • Economic Justice
•Political Organizing • Peace and International Solidarity • Youth Organizing • Workers' Rights • •Indigenous Rights • Reproductive Justice

❖ What is social change?

Social change organizing is inclusive and collective work that addresses the root causes of problems and works for long-term, sustainable alternatives. Please review the guidelines for a more detailed explanation.

An appropriate parable tells of a man walking along a river when he hears shouting, "help us save the babies!" Below at the riverbank are many of the community people frantically pulling babies out of the water. The man takes off running and someone calls to him, "where are you going? Come help us get the babies out of the river!" The man responds, "I'm going to the head of the river to stop who is throwing them in!"

Of course, saving those babies is an urgent need and will take the labor of most of the community to achieve. However, unless the root cause is directly addressed, the problem will continue. This is why the tagline for Hawai'i People's Fund is Change, not Charity™.

❖ Will you accept our proposal even if it's postmarked on the deadline?

Proposals must be received by March 1 or September 1, or the following business day if these dates fall on a weekend or holiday. Late applications will not be considered. Faxed or e-mailed applications for spring or fall cycle are not accepted.

❖ The deadline for applications has passed (or will pass before you receive our application).

Hawai'i People's Fund does not accept late applications that are received after the funding cycle deadline. An organization may submit a proposal for future grant cycles.

❖ What is a fiscal sponsor? When is a fiscal sponsor required?

A fiscal sponsor is an organization with 501(c)(3) status, a designation with the IRS allowing that entity to receive tax-deductible donations. If your group or organization has

a business account with a financial institution, then a fiscal sponsor is not needed. Otherwise, you need to find a fiscal sponsor to partner with you to receive and distribute your grant funding. Note that most fiscal sponsors will charge a percentage for this service and will offer varying levels of support. Please keep in mind that we do not fund individuals.

❖ **Who reads the grant applications? Who decides which proposals are funded?**

The Grantmaking Committee reads the applications and makes a decision regarding funding proposals. The Grantmaking Committee is made up of activists, grassroots community people who may have been Hawai'i People's Fund grantees previously and members of the Hawai'i People's Fund Board. It is comprised of your peers, people who have worked for social justice and social change in Hawai'i.

The Grantmaking Committee deliberates, discusses and recommends which grant proposals will receive funding. The Hawai'i People's Fund Board of Directors then votes on these recommendations.

❖ **Why do you need twenty copies? That's a lot of paper and expense for a grassroots organization to spend before they even get a grant!**

We realize that paper resources and photocopying may be expensive. Each member of the Grantmaking Committee, our staff, and the Hawai'i Community Foundation receives a copy of your proposal.

The request for 20 copies is not meant to hinder a group from submitting a proposal. Please contact the office at least two weeks in advance of the deadline if the twenty-copy request is a burden.

❖ **When will we learn if our group was awarded a grant?**

During the regular grant cycles, you will receive a response from a grant proposal within 90 days. We try to respond to Emergency Grant applications within five business days.

❖ **How is our proposal judged?**

Please review the grant application procedures carefully. A complete application will help the Grantmaking Committee make their decision. An application should be succinct *and* clear about its goals, objectives and intentions in how you will work towards making progressive social change in Hawai'i. Because the Grantmaking Committee will read many applications during the grant cycle, it is important that the proposal gives a broad picture of your group's work and is specific about the intended use of the resources that Hawai'i People's Fund can offer.

A clear description of the strategies that are/will be used for action is critical. The grants panel will be looking at the commitment to leadership development and diversity. Work that is inclusive and empowering rather than providing services is prioritized.

❖ **How much money can we receive and/or ask for?**

The maximum request is \$10,000. We expect the amount to be an honest reflection of need as reflected in a well-prepared budget. If a project or organization needs \$47,000, then a request for \$10,000 might make sense. If \$6,700 is the total needed, a request for \$10,000 does not make sense.

Hawai'i People's Fund grants are currently a maximum of \$5,000. Some of our grants may receive matching funds from Hawai'i Community Foundation as part of their effort to support island organizations. The full *maximum* grant award is \$10,000.

❖ **Where does the grant money come from?**

Hawai'i People's Fund is a community-based public foundation. All money for grants is raised primarily from community members who support grassroots activism for social change. In addition to supporting organizations, we are building a stronger sector of progressive philanthropy.

As stated above, some of our grants may receive matching funds from Hawai'i Community Foundation as part of their effort to support island organizations.

❖ **How long do we have to spend the money if we get a grant?**

There is no strict timeline regarding when the grant money should be spent. However, we ask that grantees turn in a report, which is usually due 9 months after a grant was awarded. The report helps us understand the work undertaken and if more time is needed to expend the funds. Failure to submit a report can affect your group's eligibility for future funding.

❖ **What do we do when the grant report is due but there's still money left from the grant?**

Grantees are still asked to submit a Grantee's Report by the due date written on their grant award letter, even if there is still money left in the grant. The grant report is meant to capture a moment-in-time and not coincide with an ending to the work. Hawai'i People's Fund understands that sometimes there are circumstances beyond anyone's control when doing social change work. It is more important that the Hawai'i People's Fund has a clear picture of how the rest of the monies will be spent if it has not been used by the grant report deadline. If there is significant amount of unspent grant money left at the grantee report deadline, a group will be considered a current grantee and not be eligible to apply for new grants.

Hawai'i People's Fund

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Hawai'i People's Fund.org • ChangeNotCharity.org