

# FUNDING GUIDELINES and ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

## *Hawai'i People's Fund: funding progressive social change since 1972*

Hawai'i People's Fund is a publicly supported community fund chartered in 1972. Our Board of Directors and Staff raise money to provide support and funding through grants to progressive grassroots groups committed to a more equitable distribution of power, resources and wealth. We believe it is critical to address the causes underlying inequality, injustice and poverty. Hawai'i People's Fund works in solidarity with grantees by providing more than monetary support. We provide technical assistance, consultation, referrals offering a variety of training, and unique networking and collaborative opportunities. In order for an organization to receive funding, it must meet the criteria and general guidelines set forth in this document. We encourage start-up projects to apply.

### **Change, Not Charity™**

Charity is short-term. • Change is long-term.

Charity is often reactive. • Change is often pro-active.

Charity treats the symptoms of injustice. • Change addresses the causes of injustice.

Charity is based on individual giving. • Change involves collective response.

Charity provides quick fixes \* Change seeks sustainable solutions.

### **We Fund SOCIAL JUSTICE**

- Inequitable allocation of resources and access to power is at the root of many social problems
- Social justice work recognizes and exposes areas of inequality and develops equitable solutions towards a better world
- Social justice work is done with, often by, *not* for, marginalized groups
- Social justice work creates or delivers to those most disempowered the skills and tools needed to positively alter this social context

### **We Fund Many Intersecting Categories of Work**

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|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Research          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peace and International Solidarity |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arts & Cultural Activism | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Movement Building                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cross-Issue Organizing   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Youth Organizing                   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human and Civil Rights   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Policy Advocacy             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental Justice    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Workers' Rights                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic Justice         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indigenous Rights                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grassroots Leadership    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reproductive Justice               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political Organizing     |  |

## **We Fund Clear Strategies for Action**

Strong proposals will reflect all or many of the following:

- Organizing, mobilization, education, direct action, and/or advocacy
- Challenge and work to change systems and institutions that create, accommodate and perpetuate social inequalities and injustices
- Address the root causes of injustice
- Work to eliminate barriers to full participation in society (i.e. racism, sexism, classism, ableism, homophobia, ageism)
- Collaboration with other groups
- Opportunities for public participation and community involvement
- Promote leadership development
- Realistic goals
- Clear plans for achieving and evaluating efforts
- Accountability to constituency
- Considered fundraising plan
- Realistic budget
- Work to eliminate harm to communities disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 crisis

## **We Fund Commitment to Inclusion and Leadership**

The applicant group reflects the full diversity of its community and involves its core constituencies at all levels of leadership and decision-making, instead of reproducing the dominant culture.

## **We Fund Social Change Organizations**

### A social change organization:

- Is explicit regarding issues of equity
- Focuses on communities affected by inequity
- Ensures that its constituents are involved in setting the agenda
- Has clear structures, processes, and mechanisms for accountability to communities being organized/served
- Recognizes unequal dynamics of racial and economic power
- Holds those responsible for maintaining inequities accountable
- Works to make change at the roots and interconnections of systems, institutions and people
- Offers bold paradigm shifts and alternatives that replace current structures of inequity and disproportionate power
- Works collaboratively in building a collective movement

## **What is the Difference between Social Service and Social Change?**

<b>Offering Direct Social Services</b>	<b>Directing Social Change</b>
Toys for tots for the holidays	Work for a living wage so that parents can buy the toys themselves
A telethon raising \$ for people with a particular disability	A disability rights organization working for greater access
Donations to cancer research	Support for a group working to change environmental policies regarding cancer-causing toxins
Annual make-a-difference day clean-up at a community park	Community organizing to prevent evictions for the gentrification of a neighborhood

Yes, there are organizations that provide both direct services and actively work for social change. Such groups are eligible for Hawai'i People's Fund support, especially as it pertains to direct responses to the COVID-19 crisis.

***If your group's philosophy and goals resonate with the values of Hawai'i People's Fund and you do not fall into any of the categories listed below, you are eligible to submit a proposal.***

**WE DO NOT FUND:**

- Activities that promote specific political candidates for public office
- Major Capital Expenditures
- For-Profit Business Ventures
- Government Agencies (Local, State, Federal)
- Scholarships
- Individual projects (e.g. graduate research, fellowships, etc.)
- Organizations with strong leadership from only one individual
- Reimbursements
- Work outside of Hawai'i
- Endowments
- One-time events that are neither part of or linked to ongoing social change organizing strategies
- Previously funded groups with outstanding grant reports
- Social service organizations without a strong social change component
- Groups with an organizational budget over \$250,000 or significant access to mainstream funding

*[Organizations with budgets of more than \$250,000 may apply if they have a discrete social justice project with a budget of less than this amount that a) needs seed money for a new activity or, b) is unlikely to meet the guidelines of other funding sources because of its goals or strategies.]*

***A note about Travel Funding Requests:*** Requests that include funding for travel must include specific details regarding how the travel is directly linked to social change organizing in Hawai'i. Whether funds are needed to bring in a speaker, send a delegate to a conference, etc., the proposal must clearly explain the planned follow-up and anticipated local impacts. *Please note that requests for off-island travel will not be considered until the COVID-19 crisis has passed.*

Please refer to Grant Application Procedures to insure your proposal is complete. (Use the checklist!)

Send one copy of a complete proposal package to:

[peoples@lava.net](mailto:peoples@lava.net) (preferred)

or by mail to

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