



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, 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 community-led start-up projects to apply.

Change, Not Charity™

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

Charity is often reactive. • Change is often **proactive**.

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

Urgent Action Grants

Hawai'i People's Fund's Urgent Action Grants support grassroots, social justice organizations in Hawai'i facing unforeseen, urgent threats, critical junctures in organizing, breaking opportunities or shifts in political landscape, that critically affect their organization and constituency.

UAGs are intended to help organizations achieve a timely and specific outcome or impact within 3-6 months, usually as part of a long term goal to achieve systems-based change.

We expect the requested amount to be an honest reflection of need as reflected in a well-prepared budget.

- The maximum request is \$5,000.
- For requests addressing needs in Maui Komohana, the maximum request is \$7,500.

Applicants will typically be notified 2-3 weeks of receipt, though the UAG Cmte is known to make decisions on a much shorter timeline.

We Fund Many Intersecting Categories of Work, *including*

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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"/> Gender Justice | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disability Justice |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political Organizing | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landback |

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 above, you are still eligible to submit a proposal.

We Fund Clear Strategies for Action

Strong proposals will reflect all or many of the following:

- Organizing, mobilization, education, direct action, and/or advocacy
- Challenging and working to change systems and institutions that create, accommodate, and perpetuate social inequalities and injustices
- Addressing the root causes of injustices
- Working to eliminate barriers to full participation and livelihood in society (i.e. racism, sexism, classism, ableism, homophobia, ageism)
- Collaboration with other groups
- Opportunities for public participation and community involvement
- Developing community leaders
- Realistic goals
- Clear plans for achieving and evaluating efforts
- Accountability to constituency
- Considered fundraising plan and/or organizational sustainability plan
- Realistic budget

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 prioritize efforts led by an organized community.

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?

Offering Direct Social Services	Directing Social Change
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.

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 not in good standing
- Social service organizations without a strong social change component
- Groups with an organizational budget over \$300,000, or groups with significant access to mainstream funding

[Organizations with budgets of more than \$300,000 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.*

submit your application online - [Information can be found on our website.](#)