



Request for Proposals
Grants up to \$10,000 for Responsive Action

DATE OF ISSUANCE: **Wednesday, April 5th, 2017**
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: **Wednesday, June 7th, 2017 at noon**

Please read this document carefully for eligibility criteria and instructions on how to apply

OVERVIEW

With a focus on the five boroughs, Stonewall Community Foundation strengthens the LGBTQ community in New York City by thoughtfully engaging donors and investing in dynamic organizations. We raise and direct funds toward the incredible efforts being made to uplift our lives and cultural contributions; advance our rights; and promote our safety, freedom, and wellness.

At Stonewall, community drives our approach. We work to identify critical community-wide challenges, develop tailored initiatives to address them, and make strategic investments in organizations and people in line with that. We understand that not all organizations serving the LGBTQ community have equal access to resources and opportunities. In addition, we believe organizations know best what they need. As such, Stonewall aims to meet organizations where they are and help them to achieve the goals and objectives they have identified as priorities.

With this Request for Proposals, Stonewall is focused on supporting organizations that are working to address the rising demand for advocacy, support, and services in the swirl of shifting political realities. We acknowledge the current political situation is adversely and acutely affecting the LGBTQ community, with many of us being expressly targeted and threatened. We know, however, that these assaults are not truly new: they're old battles that are being allowed to grow and intensify in this political moment.

In recent months, substantial funding has been provided to a small number of well-known national organizations in response; however, this support has not necessarily trickled down to local organizations that are ingrained in the community, whose resources are stretched thin while they face a potential loss of funding and real attacks from those who are emboldened to unleash their anti-LGBTQ viewpoints.

With one-year grants of up to \$10,000, we seek to fund organizations serving the people most at risk in these shifting social and political realities. Specifically for this grant cycle we are looking to support grantees that are being responsive by:

- Accelerating and enhancing existing programs or projects
- Increasing an organization's ability to withstand potential funding threats
- Developing strategies that empower those most disenfranchised

Some examples include organizations that are:

- Providing training for, and/or expanding, responsive community organizing efforts
- Teaching timely legislative advocacy and lobbying skills
- Protecting undocumented immigrants from retaliation by the state
- Working to preserve and protect access to basic, necessary, and gender-affirming healthcare

Organizations representing the full diversity of LGBTQ New York are encouraged to apply. Our hope is to address the compounded barriers that exist among specific LGBTQ populations including, but not limited to, Muslim (and those perceived to be), families having mixed immigration status, people with disabilities, women, youth, students, elders, people of color, people experiencing housing insecurity, people reliant on public benefits, trans and gender non-conforming people, and immigrants, especially those of African, Arab, Latinx, or South Asian heritage.

Grant decisions will be announced by July 2017. All applicants will receive notification as to the status of their proposals.

Grants will be active from July 1st, 2017 to June 30th, 2018. Initiation or execution of proposed work must happen within this timeframe. At the end of the grant period, a closing report must be submitted to Stonewall. The composition and due dates of these will be outlined in a letter of agreement.

WHO MAY APPLY

Any organization or project, including those that are not LGBTQ, may apply provided they:

- 1) Are a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit or have a formal written sponsorship agreement with a fiscal agent that has such status;
- 2) Have a stated prioritization of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people; and
- 3) Seek support for activities, projects, or programs that are explicitly and exclusively geared toward the LGBTQ community in one or more of the five boroughs of New York City

HOW TO APPLY

Please complete and submit the attached **Proposal Form**, along with your **operating budget**. Proposals should be typewritten in the form provided and emailed to grants@stonewallfoundation.org. Please indicate "Responsive Action" in the subject line of your email.

Budget materials will help us evaluate your proposal. We ask for a:

- Concise operating budget for the current fiscal year, and
- A list of foundations currently funding your organization

We ask that these budget materials be up-to-date and accurate. You may submit them using your own templates, but please make sure they are for the current fiscal year and include itemized revenue and expense lines. Please note opportunities you have to leverage this grant with matching grants or donations.

Questions about applying may be sent to the above email address or directed to Carlie Steen, Stonewall's Program Manager, at (212) 457-1341.



An informational conference call will be held at 2pm on Wednesday, April 26th at 2:00 p.m. EST to answer questions related to this RFP.

You can join the call by dialing (641) 715-3680, access code: 624839#



**COMPLETED PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED
BY NOON EST ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7TH, 2017**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who is Stonewall?

Stonewall Community Foundation is the only public foundation focused solely on New York City's diverse lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) community. Since 1990, Stonewall has awarded more than \$18 million to over 600 nonprofits through donor-advised and discretionary grants. Although our mission has a national reach, our core work centers on the five boroughs of New York and includes scholarship programs, donor education, leadership development, and capacity building. Currently, Stonewall's grants and programs encompass more than 30 issue areas.

How are grant decisions made?

Proposals are evaluated by a volunteer grants advisory committee whose members are leaders in community organizing, advocacy, arts, direct service provision, and philanthropy. Committee members reflect the diversity of the community we serve, across age, race, class, national origin, gender identity and expression, and sexual orientation, and they bring tremendous insight, experience, and integrity to the table. The committee makes recommendations to Stonewall's Board of Directors, helping identify and sustain the organizations and projects that best aid and empower LGBTQ New York. Upon careful review of the recommendations, grants are ratified by a vote of Stonewall's Board of Directors.

How can I get more involved with Stonewall?

As a community-driven organization, we are always looking for new volunteers, supporters, donors, and organizational partners. If you would like to discuss ways to become more involved, please contact us at (212) 457-1341 or by email at stonewall@stonewallfoundation.org.