

# ACORN EQUALITY FUND

## Grant Application

### GRANT ELIGIBILITY

#### Should I apply?

If your organization meets the following criteria, we encourage you to submit an application to the Acorn Equality Fund:

- Is an IRS-recognized 501c3 nonprofit organization or have made arrangements with an organization that is a 501c3 to act as your fiscal agent,
- Any individual, student, professor, scientist, researcher, artist, or activist, who shows financial need and is doing unique work without many sources of funding,
- Funding will be used in the counties served by AEF (all counties in Illinois except Cook, Dupage, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will),
- Any organization/individual who offers programs and/or services that fall into any Acorn Equality Fund granting area,
- Has adopted an organizational nondiscrimination policy that includes sexual orientation.

#### How much should I request?

For all grant requests:

- Grant amounts do not generally exceed 10% of an organization's total budget and 50% of a project budget,
- First-time grants for organizations do not exceed \$1000.

#### What gets funded?

Grants are restricted to the following:

- **Education:** includes (but not limited to) public education, arts, film festivals, scholarship program, teacher training, school materials, GSAs, and diversity training,
- **Health:** includes (but not limited to) HIV/AIDS/STDs, safe sex, health access, addiction/substance abuse, violence, health information, mental health, and gender reassignment-transgender issues (excluding direct care),
- **Civil Rights:** includes (but not limited to) employment/job discrimination, housing, credit, and access to healthcare, access to legal services, marriage/civil unions, adoption, parenting, and estates.

#### How do I proceed?

Determine which of the three following categories your request falls:

- **General Grant:** Program/project funding, event sponsorship, or general operating funding
- **Challenge Grant:** Challenge (or matching) grants help organizations to fundraise by using our grant to leverage additional donations to raised funds from other donors to match the grant awarded by AEF
- **Emergency Funding:** Your organization needs money now.

All proposals and related materials are considered confidential.

Granting of awards maybe used by AEF for public relations purposes and will follow all IRS reporting guidelines.

PO BOX 6286, Peoria, IL 61650  
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www.acornequalityfund.com

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## Grant Application

Submit this form or a photocopy with your grant application.

### Request for

- General Grant
- Challenge Grant
- Emergency Grant

### Program area

- Education
- Health
- Civil Rights

Name of Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of request: \_\_\_\_\_ Total operating budget: \_\_\_\_\_

### Attachments

- Current operating budget
- Event or program budget showing income and expenses (if applicable)
- Most recent year-end financial statement
- List of Board of Directors and their occupations
- Resumes of key persons involved (if applicable)

### If not previously submitted, include

- IRS 501c3 determination letter
- Employment nondiscrimination policy that includes sexual orientation (if applicable)

### Please answer the following (4 page maximum)

- 1) What is your mission statement?
- 2) What need are you meeting in your community?
- 3) Describe the event or program(s) for which you are requesting funds.  
Specify how this grant will enable your organization fulfill that need.
- 4) What measurable outcome will be made possible by an Acorn Equality Fund grant?
- 5) Provide evidence of your organization's ability to complete this project successfully.
- 6) What donor recognition will Acorn Equality Fund receive?

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