

Micro Grants for Capacity Building

The AIDS Foundation of Chicago and Harmony Micro Grants are partnering to offer micro grants to support local social services providers. In 2017 Capacity Building grants are offered for the first time as a part of the AFC Learning Circle Collaborative (LCC). The LCC is designed to improve agency infrastructure in order to improve organizational goals such as health outcomes, community needs and increasing access to care services. The LCC is based on the concept and understanding of capacity building that emphasizes agency effectiveness, shared learning and seeks to enhance the ability of organizations to achieve their missions.

Building Sustainability

Through the Advocate Microgrant RFP Process, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago will award up to 5 grants for up to \$1,500 in capacity building consulting each to increase the capacity of challenge grant organizations. It is recognized that depending on an organization's stage of development, capacity might best be enhanced by supporting non-salary activities, such as board development, fundraising planning, leadership development and communications planning.

The following capacity-building activities are eligible for funding:

- ❖ Strategic planning, business planning, and organizational assessment
- ❖ Board and staff development
- ❖ Fundraising, marketing, and communications planning and implementation
- ❖ Improving financial management
- ❖ Feasibility assessment and implementation of mergers and strategic alliances

Successful Projects

These capacity-building grants will enable organizations to work directly with consultants to help the board and staff members pursue innovative thinking and planning beyond everyday operations. Based on AFC's experience with its Capacity Building Programs, these grants have proven especially beneficial to groups experiencing significant organizational transitions such as major shifts in funding sources, staffing, or rapid growth.

In general, the most successful capacity-building projects:

- ❖ address management and leadership issues that affect the organization as a whole, rather than a single department or program
- ❖ come at a strategic moment for the organization, such as a leadership transition, a period of rapid growth or expansion, or significant change in a program or income stream
- ❖ are focused on a single problem or issue, rather than a patchwork of unrelated problems or needs
- ❖ are critical to the organization's long-term success in achieving its mission

Learning Circle

Capacity-building grant recipients are required to work with a group of expert's consultant, who meet monthly as a part of the Learning Circle Collaborative. The LCC meets monthly and conducts a monthly training on topics such as fundraising, strategic planning, communications and marketing. The LCC supports skill development for leaders from the awarded agencies.

Apply

In order to qualify for this micro-grant, an organization must be addressing a capacity building or technical assistance, organization development or management issues with a social service programs. Organizations must be a nonprofit and/or registered 501c3 to apply for a micro-grant. An RFP portal is available to apply for grants by visiting <http://www.thecommunitycommitment.org/micro-grant-request-submission>.

Grant applications are accepted for a period of 21 days from May 1 -31, 2017. Contract periods will be from May – October 2017. Applicants must answer all of the questions in the portal in order to be considered.

Awards

Grants will be awarded in amounts of \$500, \$1,000, and \$1,500. Awards will be distributed once all necessary paperwork has been completed. Awardees will be notified both over the phone and in writing if they have been selected to receive a LCC micro grant. A Community Advocate from WellCare's community advocacy team will coordinate with awardees once they have been selected.

If you have questions about eligibility, please refer to the communication you received from the WellCare's Advocacy and Community Based Program (ACBP) Department. For more information about capacity-building grants, please contact Cynthia Tucker at ctucker@aidschicago.org.