



Community Philanthropy and “Burning Issues” Programme Grant Guidelines, March 2016

The GFCF is inviting ideas for a small grants and capacity building programme focused on “burning issues” identified and being addressed by community philanthropy organizations at the local level.

The purpose of these short-term grants will be to support the work of individual [community foundations and community philanthropy organizations](#), both programmatically and institutionally, and to begin to draw a map of the range of different activities around “urgent” or “burning” activities in which community philanthropy organizations are engaging around the world. A secondary purpose of the programme will be to provide grounded content to inform planning and delivery processes for the [Global Summit on Community Philanthropy](#), a landmark event for the global community philanthropy field which will be held in Johannesburg on 1st and 2nd December 2016.

Grants will be in the range of US \$7,000 - \$15,000 and the grant period will run from May 1st – December 31st 2016.

A. Focus of grants

Grants will be awarded to support the following objectives:

- To strengthen the efforts of community foundations and community philanthropy organizations in their response to specific “burning” or “difficult” issues at the community level. This might include (but would not be limited to) issues associated with the environment, women’s and / or minority rights, social cohesion etc.;
- To strengthen the capacities and profile of community foundations and community philanthropy organizations as effective and trusted grassroots grantmakers and vehicles for local giving, as well as supporting their abilities to engage around difficult or urgent local issues;
- To increase the profile and connectedness of community foundations and other local philanthropic institutions as vehicles for community-driven development and actors, facilitators and community leaders around burning local issues.

B. Participation in peer learning network

Successful applicants will be invited to participate in a learning network across a cohort of grantees. The GFCF has pioneered successful ways of developing innovation through a combination of small grants, convenings as well as data collection and analysis and in 2016, it will extend opportunities to grantees to participate in the Global Summit on Community Philanthropy.

C. Eligible grant activities

Applicants are encouraged to develop grant activities that can advance their work in some of the following areas:

Externally:

- Encourage communities to relate to, and engage with, burning issues affecting them (in the context of a broader, holistic approach to development) and to see themselves as having a stake in these issues;

- Unlock philanthropic resources, assets and public support for identified issues within and across different parts of the community.

Internally:

- Contribute to the overall institutional development of the grantee organization itself (including its own awareness around identified/key issues, community outreach, grantmaking expertise around these issues, constituency development for this work, etc.).

D. Grant application process

The GFCF will use a two-stage grant application process.

Step 1

Applicants are invited to submit a concept note online through [this link](#) (see form on right-hand side of the page) and will be asked to provide the following information:

- Organization name and contact information;
- Brief description of mission, primary activities and annual budget of the organization;
- Brief description and rationale for proposed grant-funded activities and anticipated outcomes;
- Grant amount requested.

The deadline for submission of concept notes is **Friday 8th April**.

Step 2

Applicants will be invited to complete a full application form. The GFCF will receive these over April and May 2016.

E. Grant size

It is envisaged that grants will be in the range of US \$7,000 - \$15,000.

F. Timing and other restrictions

Due to conditions around the GFCF's own funding:

- All grant activities must be completed by **December 31st 2016**.
- No grant funding can be used for re-granting or to cover capital costs.
- Any remaining grant funds over US \$100 must be returned to the GFCF at the end of the grant.

Please note: this opportunity is only open to organizations that define themselves as community foundations, grassroots grantmakers, and other types of local philanthropic institutions (and that are engaged in grantmaking and raise resources from a range of donor sources, including local philanthropy). More information can be found on the GFCF's website (www.globalfundcf.org). Please direct any questions to Wendy Richardson at wendy@globalfundcf.org.