

GFCF Grants Programme, 2018 Open Call for Concept Notes



Is your organization:

- A community philanthropy organization (CPO)?
- A community foundation?
- A women's fund?
- An environmental fund?
- A national public foundation?
- A grassroots grantmaker?
- Any other kind of organization that identifies with the concept and practice of community philanthropy?

Are you interested in:

- Shifting power and control closer to communities so that people have greater say – and the opportunity to act – when it comes to driving their own development?
- Recognizing, valuing, and growing local assets and resources as a central pillar of community-owned and community-led development?
- Piloting and demonstrating new approaches – whether around governance, decision-making, local resource mobilization – that build local agency and foster new kinds of participation and ownership?

Does your organization:

- **Serve a particular community**, whether geographic, issue or identity-based, and see it as a source of knowledge, assets, relationships and agency?
- **Use grantmaking as a deliberate development strategy**, which devolves power and resources to groups and organizations in your community, because you believe that the best decisions and actions are rooted in, and shaped by, local experience and knowledge?
- Work to build a **local culture of giving (philanthropy) and co-investment** within the community you serve, whether as a strategy for flattening power, growing a local support base or constituency for community issues, increasing civic participation and horizontal accountability?
- Seek to build **trust, networks and connections** within, across and beyond the community/ies you serve?
- Seek to address, engage in, and build support for **complex, unpopular or minority issues** within your community?

If the answer is “Yes!” to most of these questions, then you may be interested in knowing about the GFCF's new grants programme.

If the answer is “Not Sure,” then take a minute to watch this [short video](#) and to read a recent paper on [How Community Philanthropy Shifts Power](#).

About the programme

The GFCF is inviting concept notes for a grants programme aimed at strengthening and supporting community philanthropy approaches that:

- Strengthen the efforts of CPOs to respond to, change mindsets around and build support for complex, sensitive or apparently intractable issues at the community level (e.g. social cohesion and other community divisions, environmental issues, women's issues, youth, other minority rights, marginalized and vulnerable communities etc.).
- Strengthen the overall durability and effectiveness of CPOs as trusted and rooted vehicles for people-led, people-owned development (whether around grantmaking systems, governance and management structures, fund development and sustainability, communications platforms, etc.).

Specific activities could include the following:

- Strengthening the efforts of individual CPOs that are seeking to mobilize local resources and / or foster the growth of local philanthropy for progressive social change.
- Testing or piloting new strategies and approaches in their work (for example, a new resource mobilization strategy, a participatory grantmaking programme, etc.)
- Strengthening the evidence base for community philanthropy by documenting and demonstrating practice / outcomes etc.

About the grants

- Grants will be in the range of U.S. \$10,000 - \$20,000 (size will depend on annual budget, nature of activities and whether the organization is already known to the GFCF).
- Grants will be for an initial period of one year (follow-on funding may be possible).
- Participation in a learning network / grantee convening may be a condition of the grant.

Who should apply?

- ✓ CPOs (including community foundations, women's funds, environmental funds, national public foundations, grassroots grantmakers, etc.). Applicants should be grantmakers who are mobilizing local resources and / or attempting to build a culture of philanthropy in their community.
- ✓ CPOs based in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Central and Eastern Europe, or Latin America and the Caribbean.
- ✓ Past grant recipients and applicants are welcome to apply.

How to apply?

The GFCF uses a two-step application process.

1. **Submit a concept note by Friday 20th July 2018.** This is the first step in the process but does not guarantee an invitation to submit a proposal.
2. **Invitation to submit a full application.** Due to funding limitations not all organizations will be invited to this second stage.

To apply, please submit an online grant inquiry using the fields provided [here](#). Alternatively, applicants may submit a preliminary concept note of no more than one page by e-mail to Wendy Richardson (wendy@globalfundcf.org) at the GFCF. This note should include responses to each of the fields contained in the online grant inquiry form (see link above).

Timeline for process

20th July 2018: Deadline for submission of concept notes

10th September 2018: Deadline for submission of full application

Mid-October 2018: Notification of funding decision from the GFCF

Questions?

Please contact Wendy Richardson at the GFCF for further information and queries (contact details above).