

Grant applications are due March 18, 2017 - one week after the Buck Dinner and must be submitted through application@buckdinner.org.

The Buck Dinner supports justice, peace and equality. The Buck Dinner Committee consists of Headhunters, who invite guests to sit at their table at the dinner and contribute as many bucks as they can. The amount of money available for grants each year depends on the amount generated at the dinner.

Several weeks after the dinner, headhunters gather to review applications and reports from organizations that previously received grants and to make decisions about that year's distribution of funds. The Buck Dinner Committee provides funding for some projects; others are funded by attendees' donations to the Fund for Equal Justice, which provides grants eligible for its Section 501(c)(3) funds.

The mission of the Buck Dinner is to support groups working for progressive social change and defending against erosion of our civil rights and civil liberties. The Buck Dinner will support specific projects or provide general operating support to those organizations which can demonstrate that its work's central focus is advocacy efforts that have an impact. General operating support is intended to help ensure the stability and build the capacity of progressive organizations in southeastern Michigan.

The following are criteria for Buck Dinner/FEJ grants:

1. The organization has action, organizing or education components that address peace, justice, equality, progressive social change and/or defense against erosion of our civil rights and civil liberties through the use of advocacy. Advocacy efforts aim to influence public-policy and resource allocation decisions within political, economic, and social systems and institutions to assist in the development of better public policy, ensure governments' accountability to citizens, give a voice to underrepresented constituencies, mobilize citizens to participate in the democratic process, and support the development of a culture of democracy. Advocacy can include (but is not limited to) legal action, lobbying, media campaigns, public speaking, commissioning and publishing research or polls, and civil disobedience. It does not include social service delivery.
2. The applicant has demonstrated accountability for the actions and funds of the organization. This means, at a minimum, that financial reports of budget vs. actual monies spent the previous year, and for the current year, are attached. The previous year's grant recipients must provide specific information in its report about its accomplishments and challenges in the previous year, and that the applicants have good accounting practices, including conducting regular audits.
3. The applicant has a history of doing effective work. Please provide information about specific recent organizational accomplishments.

4. The applicant must have a demonstrated ability to work effectively with other progressive organizations. Please provide information about the other organization with which you have collaborated and describe these recent efforts. Please also name and describe other organizations with which your organization or project will be working.
5. The applicant group's leadership merits confidence. A list of staff and board members and their roles/qualifications should be provided.
6. The organization is based in Southeast Michigan.
7. Organizations that received a Buck Dinner grant in 2016 but did not submit the required report by January 31, 2017, are not eligible for a grant in 2017.

The deadline for submission of applications is the third Saturday in March — March 18, 2017, one week after the Buck Dinner itself. No submissions will be considered after that date.

PLEASE FOLLOW THE FORMAT BELOW AND SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION VIA application@buckdinner.org. USE PDF (Preferred) or MICROSOFT WORD

Put the name of your organization in the subject line of the email. A determination letter will be sent to each organization that applies for funds in late April/early May.

Please address each the following questions in the order and format below (limit your request to a maximum of 4 pages):

1. Name of organization
2. Contact person's name, mailing address, e-mail address and telephone number.
3. Whether the applying organization (or a fiduciary) has section 501(c)(3) status. (If the section 501(c)(3) status is that of a fiduciary, provide the name of the fiduciary organization, the name and contact information of its fiduciary and a written statement confirming the fiduciary status.)
Put the amount requested in bold font (be very brief and clear.)

4. If there is a particular project for which you seek support please describe it, including its political significance and goals. ***[Note: Buck Dinner funds will provide general operating support. Applicants who prefer to seek support for a particular project may do so instead].***

5. Organizational Background:
 - a) How does this organization's mission and/or the project's objective fit with the Buck Dinner mission?

 - b) Briefly describe the most significant organizational accomplishments in the past two years.

 - c) Briefly describe your organizational structure. (For example, how does your organization work? What is the role of the board, staff, and volunteers?)

6. Briefly explain why your organization is requesting this grant:
 - a) What is the issue/problem to be addressed? Who will benefit?

 - b) Describe key organizational priorities for this year. What outcomes do you hope to achieve? How will you spend the funds if the grant is made?

 - c) What is your action plan? Please emphasize those tools and approaches that hold governments and other powerful actors accountable for protecting the rights of all people. Examples include documenting human rights abuses, cross-issue organizing and alliance building, legal action, legislative action, and the act of engaging and encouraging the leadership of most affected communities.

 - d) Describe past and future planned organization collaborations. Please provide the names of other groups with whom your group will be collaborating.

- e) Describe evaluation plans; how will success be measured?
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- 7. Qualifications of project (or organization's) staff

 - 8. Provide a detailed organizational budget and/or budget for the project proposed, including other funding sources.

 - 9. Provide a statement confirming your acceptance of an obligation to submit a brief written report to the Buck Dinner Committee by January 31, 2018, explaining how the organization spent its Buck Dinner funds.

Organizations that receive a Buck Dinner grant in 2017 and do not submit the required report by January 31, 2018 will not be eligible for a grant in 2018.

REPORTING GUIDELINES

Your report should be submitted in PDF format (preferred) or WORD to reports@buckdinner.org and is due January 31, 2018. It should be a one- to two-page summary of how you spent your Buck Dinner Committee or Fund for Equal Justice Funds and your evaluation of the impact and value of the project. Please provide specific information about your accomplishments and challenges in the previous year. ***If possible, please include several images (jpgs) that show your work and accomplishments.*** The Buck Dinner Committee uses these reports to assess the success of funded projects and to publicize to Buck Dinner attendees how their bucks were spent in the previous year.