CRITERIA FOR FUNDING

Community Organizing
The Community Organizing program area seeks to support organizations that bring people together with a collective vision to reclaim, build and wield their power to take collective action in order to advance racial equity and/or racial justice in the metropolitan Chicago area. Community organizing enables democracy at the grassroots level to reimagine and transform systems.

We support organizations that:

- Operate within metropolitan Chicago (city proper with some consideration of other cities in Cook County)
  - We prioritize supporting organizations that work within, and with, communities of color and marginalized populations
- Utilize a political framework for organizing efforts
  - Racial equity lens (required)
    - Center race in their organizing framework
    - Have an understanding of disparities and the reasons they exist
    - Look at structural root causes of problems
    - Name race explicitly when talking about problems
    - Propose redistribution as a primary solution
  - Racial justice lens (preferred)
    - Understand and acknowledges the historical centrality of race in the US
    - Create a shared affirmative vision of a fair and inclusive society
    - Focus explicitly on building civic, cultural, and political power by those most impacted
    - Propose a broader based set of solutions that includes, but is not limited to, equity
    - Emphasize transformative solutions that impact multiple systems
- Have 51% people of color on the executive leadership of the organization and its Board of Directors
  - We prioritize POC-led and POC-centered/POC-serving organizations
- Demonstrate elements of community organizing
  - Impacted individuals are involved in the organization’s decision-making process and participate in collective action to advance campaign/work
Have a process (informal or formal) to develop the leadership of those impacted by the issue that the organization is working towards dismantling

- Articulate a strategy for systems change and involved tactics
  - Addresses changes in policies, practices, structures, and/or systems
  - Demonstrates a critique of, and challenges, institutions of power
  - Builds strategic partnerships with other organizations, including coalitions & coalition building

- Size of organization
  - We prioritize supporting small and grassroots organizations
    - Grassroots - < $1M
    - Small - $1M - $3M

**Public Policy Advocacy**
The Public Policy Advocacy program area seeks to support organizations that influence public discourse and policy decisions to advance racial equity and/or racial justice.

Public policy advocacy is comprised of a continuum of activities that aim to inform decisions within the public sector and may include the following: educating the public and policymakers; influencing legislation, referendum, budgeting, and rulemaking; monitoring policy implementation; and taking legal actions.

We support organizations that:

- Operate within metropolitan Chicago (city proper with some consideration of other cities in Cook County)
  - We prioritize supporting organizations that work within, and with, communities of color and marginalized populations

- Center a racial equity lens *(required)*
  - Have an understanding of disparities and the reasons they exist
  - Look at structural root causes of problems
  - Name race explicitly when talking about problems
  - Propose redistribution as a primary solution

- Center a racial justice lens *(preferred)*
  - Understand and acknowledge the historical centrality of race in the US
  - Create a shared affirmative vision of a fair and inclusive society
  - Focus explicitly on building civic, cultural, and political power by those most impacted
  - Propose a broader based set of solutions that includes, but is not limited to, equity
  - Emphasize transformative solutions that impact multiple systems

- Have 51% people of color on the executive leadership of the organization and its Board of Directors
  - We prioritize supporting POC-led and POC-centered/POC-serving organizations

- Partner with community groups to advance campaigns and legislation
  - Partner with community groups so that impacted individuals are included in the design, advancement & implementation of a policy
  - Support community groups to understand and engage in the legislative process (trainings, resources, tools)
  - Mutually develop clarity of roles between organizations
- Participate in strategic partnerships and/or collaborations, including coalition & coalition-building
- Size of organization
  - We prioritize supporting small and grassroots organizations
    - Grassroots - < $1M
    - Small - $1M - $3M

**Integrated Approach: Community Organizing and Public Policy Advocacy**
The Integrated Approach program area leverages the power of community organizing and public policy advocacy strategies. This program area seeks to support community-based organizations that employ both strategies to advance racial equity and/or racial justice.

We support organizations that:

- Operate within metropolitan Chicago (city proper with some consideration of other cities in Cook County)
  - We prioritize supporting organizations that work within, and with, communities of color and marginalized populations
- Have 51% people of color on the organization’s executive leadership and Board of Directors
  - We prioritize supporting POC-led and POC-centered/POC-serving organizations
- Prioritize and engage people most impacted by structural racism and economic injustice to lead the process of defining problems and developing solutions
- Are community-based and building an informed power base
- Participate in coalition building to achieve greater impact
- Have demonstrated an ability to effectively influence policymakers and the policymaking process
- Size of organization
  - We prioritize supporting small and grassroots organizations
    - Grassroots - < $1M
    - Small - $1M - $5M