



**WOODS
FUND**
C H I C A G O

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