

2024 Strategic Focus Area - Housing Justice Grant

Horizon Foundation

Overview

The Foundation seeks organizational partners to co-create solutions that remove barriers to obtaining and sustaining affordable, high-quality rental housing and home ownership. The first phase of co-creation will focus on three housing priorities over the next two years.

Expanding renter protections. We seek partners to lead efforts that create pathways to financial stability for renters, organize and build power among tenants and drive policy change, especially for Black and Brown residents who are disproportionately likely to rent.

Sustaining homeownership. We seek partners to support advocacy and scale interventions that preserve housing and help people generate wealth through homeownership. As we learn more about the complex landscape of homeownership, we seek to explore and broaden the impact of promising practices that keep people in their homes such as housing counseling and foreclosure prevention.

Strengthening systems to advance housing justice. We seek partners to create a more robust infrastructure for housing justice in Howard County, which includes convening leaders, coalition building, coordinating and designing housing insecurity prevention strategies and elevating policies and practices that spur affordable housing production.

Housing Justice Grant Opportunities

To help us make progress toward the above priorities, the Foundation is making two types of grant opportunities available. Organizations can be considered for one or both opportunities. Additionally, organizations must be committed to at least one of the above housing priorities. We seek organizations committed to partnering with us through the following opportunities:

(1) Organizing and Advocacy: Grantees will be awarded up to \$100,000. Grantees may receive funding for up to 2 years. Funding will support organizations to co-create solutions focused on the above housing priorities. Strategies/Activities could include tenant organizing, policy change, power building and community engagement. Grantees will be expected to collaborate with the Foundation and fellow grantees in a co-creation process that will begin January 2025.

(2) Housing Service Provider Workgroup: Grantees will be awarded up to \$10,000 to participate in a workgroup. that will identify prevention strategies to address housing insecurity, explore ways to strengthen service coordination and make policy recommendations to support systems

change. Grantees will be expected to select 1 – 2 representatives to attend 6 bimonthly meetings from January – December 2025.

The grant period for grantees is from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025. If a grantee is awarded a multi-year grant, the grant period is January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2026.

Eligibility Criteria

NonProfit Organization*

Is your organization determined as charitable under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or is it another entity that meets IRS charitable guidelines?

Choices

Yes

No

Service Area*

Does your organization deliver services to Howard County residents and/or greater Maryland?

Choices

Yes

No

Non-Discriminatory Status*

Does your organization provide programs and services to the intended beneficiaries without discrimination on the basis of race, color, gender, national origin, religion, disability, medical condition, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran or military status, pregnancy, ancestry, age or any other characteristic protected by federal, state, county or local laws, regulations or ordinances.

Choices

Yes

No

Grant Opportunity*

Please indicate below which Housing Justice Grant opportunity your organization would like to apply for. **Though organizations can request consideration for both opportunities, it is likely that only one grant would be awarded if selected.

Choices

Organizing and Advocacy Grant

Housing Service Provider Workgroup Grant

Both Grant opportunities

Organizational Overview

Organization's Mission and Vision*

What is your organization's Board approved mission and vision?

Character Limit: 1500

Organization Activities*

Describe your organization's main activities and programs, and how they support your mission.

Character Limit: 2000

Total Staff*

How many total staff (full and part-time) does your organization have?

Character Limit: 250

What percentage (%) of your organization's full-time staff are non-White or of Hispanic ethnicity?*

Enter "UNKNOWN" if not known.

Character Limit: 25

What percentage (%) of your organization's board members are non-White or of Hispanic ethnicity?*

Enter "UNKNOWN" if not known.

Character Limit: 25

Does your president/CEO/executive director identify as non-White or of Hispanic ethnicity?*

Choices

Yes

No

What are the communities in Howard County that you serve?*

Character Limit: 1500

If awarded a grant, the check should be made payable to:*

Please indicate a name and address.

Character Limit: 205

If awarded this grant, email communications should be sent to:*

Please indicate 1-2 contacts to receive communication. Include names and email addresses.

Character Limit: 250

Social Media*

Please include any social media accounts, handles or websites where you will post information regarding your campaign efforts (e.g. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, etc.).

If you do not use social media, please type "N/A".

Character Limit: 250

Racial Equity Experience

What does racial equity mean to your organization?

*

Character Limit: 500

What does embedding racial equity in your organization's work look like? (Provide examples)*

Character Limit: 1000

Describe your experience in working with and/or serving communities of color?

*

Character Limit: 1000

What trainings/opportunities has your organization participated in to shape its racial equity knowledge?

*

Character Limit: 1000

Advocacy Experience

Has your organization participated in advocacy before?*

Please select one choice.

Choices

Yes

I'm not sure

No

If yes or I'm not sure, please provide a brief description of your advocacy experience.*

If you answered no write "N/A" below.

Character Limit: 1000

When it comes to building community power, what do you think your organization brings to the table?*

Character Limit: 1000

What experience do you have building a base of members/leaders and engaging them in structured community or leadership activities?*

Character Limit: 1000

What trainings/opportunities has your organization participated in to shape its advocacy knowledge?*

Character Limit: 1000

Housing Justice Interest and Experience

Project Name*

Please add your organization name_2024 Housing Justice Applicant (i.e. "Horizon Foundation_2024 Housing Justice Applicant")

Character Limit: 100

Horizon Justice Priority Areas*

The Foundation seeks organizational partners to co-create solutions that remove barriers to obtaining and sustaining affordable, high-quality rental housing and home ownership. Please select which housing justice priority(s) your organization is most committed to:

Choices

- Expanding renter protections
- Sustaining homeownership
- Strengthening systems to advance housing justice

Please provide examples of how your organization has addressed the selected housing priority(s) above.*

Character Limit: 1500

In your opinion, what kind of changes to our community would be necessary to achieve housing justice? What role does/will your organization play in achieving those changes?*

Character Limit: 1500

Has your board discussed, agreed upon and/or committed to working on the selected housing priority(s) above? If not, how would you seek commitment from your board?*

Character Limit: 1500

Has your membership discussed, agreed upon and/or committed to working on the selected housing priority(s) above? If not, how would you seek commitment from your membership?*

Character Limit: 1500

Existing Partnerships*

List the top three organizations/groups/people you work with and describe your partnership.

Character Limit: 1000

New Partnerships*

List three organizations you wish to work with in the future? Why?

Character Limit: 1000

Grantee Acknowledgement

As an applicant I agree and understand the following Horizon Foundation Grantmaking Principles:*

- **Co-Creation:** Together, selected grantees and the Foundation will develop equitable decision-making approaches to advance housing solutions in the county. Grantees will not need to develop/implement their own individual housing project/strategy. Instead, grantees, alongside the Foundation and community, will work together to co-create solutions to the complex housing challenges in Howard County after grant funding has been awarded.
- **Flexible Funding:** All selected grantees will be awarded an operating grant to allow for more innovation, emergent action and sustainability.
- **New Grantee Experience:** Selected grantees will participate in a collaborative learning journey with other grantees to help foster a stronger sense of community and a deeper learning of racial equity and organizing advocacy principles. All grantees will be expected to participate in 4 (Quarterly) convenings that will include the following:
 - Racial equity & anti-racism coaching/activities
 - Community organizing training/activities

Additionally, on demand technical assistance and coaching will be provided in areas uplifted by each grantee throughout the project period.

Please agree by selecting the statement below:

Choices

I agree to and understand the above Horizon Foundation Grantmaking Principles.

Additional Information

Please include any additional information you feel is relevant for your application.

Character Limit: 1000

Electronic Signature

Terms of Application Submission

By entering your full name below, you are agreeing to the following:

- The information contained in this application and its attachments are complete and accurate.
- The Foundation reserves the right not to award a grant.
- Should an award be made, the funds will be used exclusively for the purpose outlined in the application.
- Should an award be made, you will be asked to sign a grant agreement and be required to submit a post award report.

Electronic Signature*

The application must be signed by the CEO, Board Chair, or an authorized officer of the organization. To sign the application, please type your first and last name.

Character Limit: 50

Signatory's Title*

Character Limit: 250