



ARKANSAS  
community foundation  
Smart Giving to Improve Communities

## **Arkansas LGBTQ+ Advancement Fund Frequently Asked Questions**

### **WHAT IS THE ARKANSAS LGBTQ+ ADVANCEMENT FUND?**

The **Arkansas LGBTQ+ Advancement Fund** is a new fund at Arkansas Community Foundation that supports organizations working to improve the quality of life for LGBTQ+ Arkansans by providing legal, health, education, advocacy or other high-demand services/programs.

### **HOW DID THE FUND GET STARTED?**

The Fund is supported through grants from the Alice L. Walton Foundation and from Olivia and Tom Walton through the Walton Family Foundation. It is also supported by additional funds from the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation, which has previously provided support to develop a needs assessment for the LGBTQ+ community in Arkansas.

### **WHAT WILL THE FUND BE USED FOR?**

The Fund will distribute grants for Arkansas-based organizations that provide legal, health, education, advocacy or other high-demand services/programs for LGBTQ+ Arkansans. Funds may not be used for lobbying or partisan political activity.

### **WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THESE GRANTS?**

501(c) (3) organizations, public schools, churches, hospitals and government entities are eligible to apply. Other organizations that do not qualify for tax-exempt status are not eligible.

Organizations must have a mission that directly incorporates work on behalf of LGBTQ+ community OR intend to incorporate services for LGBTQ+ individuals into the delivery of the organization's larger programs and mission.

### **CAN AN ORGANIZATION THAT DOES NOT HAVE 501(C)(3) PUBLIC CHARITY STATUS APPLY UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF A FISCAL SPONSOR?**

Yes. You will need to provide contact information for your fiscal sponsor, as well as their Tax ID/EIN number. You'll also need to upload a Memorandum of Understanding between your organization and your fiscal sponsor that confirms your sponsorship arrangement. If you don't have an MOU in place already, a template can be provided to you by calling 501-372-1116.

## **IF AN ORGANIZATION IS APPLYING UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF A FISCAL SPONSOR, CAN THE FISCAL SPONSOR ORGANIZATION ALSO APPLY?**

Yes, as long as both parties (the fiscal sponsor and the sponsored organization) are requesting funds for separate/distinct work that is aligned with the goals of the LGBTQ+ Advancement Fund.

## **I AM A NONPROFIT, HOW CAN I APPLY?**

To complete an application, visit [www.arcf.lgbtq](http://www.arcf.lgbtq) to access our online application portal.

NOTE: Please submit any questions regarding this request for proposals to [arcfgrants@arcf.org](mailto:arcfgrants@arcf.org) or call 501-372-1116. The deadline for the application is 11:59 p.m. Central Time on Nov. 22, 2021.

To receive updates about future funding opportunities, follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, or [sign up for our nonprofit newsletter here](#).

## **WHAT TYPES OF GRANTS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE FUND?**

There are two types of grants:

- 1. Program Grants:** These grants will support the program costs for initiatives that directly support services to the Arkansas LGBTQ+ community. Organizations must be headquartered in Arkansas or have a significant basis of operation in Arkansas (for example, an office, staff person or on-the-ground programs.) Grants will typically range from \$25,000 to \$150,000, although grants outside that range may be considered under exceptional circumstances. This is a one-time grant that may be expended over 1 – 2 years and used for programs, activities or projects that directly support LGBTQ+ Arkansans.

### **Criteria for Program Grants:**

- Must be a 501(c)(3) public charity, public school, hospital, church or government entity. Applicants may use a fiscal sponsor if needed
- Provide legal, health, education, advocacy or other high-demand services/programs for LGBTQ+ Arkansans.
- Headquartered in Arkansas or have a significant basis of operation in Arkansas (for example, an office, staff person or on-the-ground programs)
- Must 1) have a mission that directly incorporates work on behalf of LGBTQ+ community or 2) intend to incorporate services for LGBTQ+ individuals into the delivery of the organization's larger programs and mission

2. **Impact Grants:** These grants are to provide general operating support for Arkansas-based grassroots organizations led by and serving LGBTQ+ communities with an annual operating budget of \$150,000 or less and that provide services to LGBTQ+ Arkansans as an explicit focus of the organization. These grants will be \$25,000 and less. The purpose of this funding is to strengthen and support local organizations led by and serving the LGBTQ+ community. This is a one-time grant for general operating support that may be expended over 1 – 2 years.

**Criteria for Impact Grants:**

- Have an annual operating budget of \$150,000 or less
- Must have a mission that directly incorporates work on behalf of LGBTQ+ community OR intend to incorporate services for LGBTQ+ individuals into the delivery of the organization’s larger programs and mission
- Provide legal, health, education, advocacy or other high-demand services/programs for LGBTQ+ Arkansans
- Headquartered in Arkansas
- Must be a 501(c)(3) public charity, public school, hospital, church or government entity. Applicants may use a fiscal sponsor if needed

**WHO DETERMINES WHICH NONPROFITS RECIEVES GRANTS?**

The grant selection committee includes leadership from the funder community and representation from the LGBTQ+ community both locally and nationally.

**IF A COALITION IS APPLYING FOR A GRANT, CAN THE INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THAT COALITION ALSO APPLY FOR GRANTS ON THEIR OWN?**

Yes, as long as the work for which the coalition is applying is distinct from the work for which the individual member organization is applying. In other words, the Fund would likely not provide funding to two entities for the same project, but it would consider funding two related entities for separate projects.

**HOW WILL PROPOSALS BE EVALUATED? WHAT FACTORS WILL INFLUENCE FUNDING DECISIONS?**

For **Program Grants**, the following criteria will be considered:

- **Scale of Positive Impact** - likelihood for the grant funding to enable a significant impact for the target community in Arkansas, either in number of individuals served, depth of services provided, or both.
- **Organization’s Potential for Success** - Program design that is tied to a need in the community and an approach that is likely to meet that need in Arkansas. Demonstrated track record of effective service to the target population, or, if the organization is relatively new, a clear plan to engage partners and secure resources necessary for

success. The organization has strong relationships with the communities it intends to serve and is well positioned to carry out the proposed program.

- **Focus on Underserved Communities** - Leadership and programs that are grounded in a deep understanding of LGBTQ+ Arkansans and engage the voices of this community in program design.
- **Clarity of Goals and Outcomes** - The intended use of the funding will lead to demonstrable progress for the organization and the target population served in Arkansas. The outcomes are feasible, and the organization is well positioned to achieve the desired outcomes in Arkansas.
- **Effective Use of Budget** - Proposed budget is sufficient to achieve the proposal's aims, there is evidence of funding from other sources (if needed) to achieve the cost of programs, line items are clear and appropriate for the project.

For **Impact Grants**, the following criteria will be considered:

- **Scale of Positive Impact** - likelihood for the grant funding to enable a significant impact for the target community, either in number of individuals served, depth of services provided, or both.
- **Organization's Potential for Success** - Program design that is tied to a need in the community and an approach that is likely to meet that need. Demonstrated track record of effective service to the target population, or, if the organization is relatively new, a clear plan to engage partners and secure resources necessary for success.
- **Focus on Underserved Communities** - Leadership and programs that are grounded in a deep understanding of LGBTQ+ Arkansans and engage the voices of this community in program design

## **CAN SMALL BUSINESSES OR INDIVIDUALS APPLY FOR FUNDING?**

Small businesses and individuals are not eligible to apply.

## **I REPRESENT A CORPORATION/BUSINESS/FAMILY FOUNDATION, HOW ELSE CAN I HELP LGBTQ+ ORGANIZATIONS?**

Arkansas Community Foundation will work with your company – whether you are a small business owner or a major corporation – to help. We are experts in and offer a variety of tools for smart corporate giving including CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) and a Corporate Giving Toolkit. [Visit our Smart Corporate Giving page](#) to learn more or contact Ashley Coldiron at 501-372-1116 for more help.