



2024 ROC Giving Circle Grant Information Sheet

Grants range from \$1,000 - \$10,000

Grant Description

The Reimagining Our Community (ROC) Giving Circle is a way for the community to support BIPOC small business through collective philanthropy. The Giving Circle is managed by the ROC Cohort. Its purpose is to facilitate funding to initiatives that support BIPOC-owned small businesses. Funds will be awarded to existing 501c3 non-profit organizations that have or wish to develop programming, services, or products to support the development and sustainability of BIPOC-owned small businesses in Lancaster County. The goal is that these funds will bridge gaps within existing resources to ensure that services are equitable in access, participation, and implementation.

The vision of the ROC cohort is that Lancaster County is a nurturing environment for BIPOC-owned small businesses to thrive. Our priorities are to strengthen trust among resource providers and BIPOC-owned small businesses, build equitable access to capital, and to strengthen community for BIPOC-owned small businesses.

Project Examples

Funding can be used toward equity-focused marketing campaigns, scholarship opportunities for BIPOC entrepreneurs to participate in programming, technical trainings and skill building workshops, supplier diversity programs, cultural competency trainings, etc.

Community Conversation

April 1, 9 am – 10:30 am

Lancaster Chamber of Commerce

115E. King St., Lancaster, PA 17602

Get ready to ignite innovation! The ROC Cohort is thrilled to host a Community Conversation to ignite creativity for grant project proposals. We invite all BIPOC small business owners and entrepreneurs to attend and share the barriers in our current ecosystem and the resources needed to flourish. We also invite CBOs to hear the community needs and engage in conversation. The conversation will center on understanding the current needs in order to develop projects and programs that address resource gaps, specifically in areas of strengthening trust, building equitable access to capital, and strengthening community for BIPOC-owned small businesses.

Eligibility Summary

Eligible applying organizations must meet the following requirements:

- Serve Lancaster County residents without discrimination.
- Current 501(c)(3) designation from the IRS.
- Registered with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Charitable Organizations unless otherwise exempt per the Institutions of Purely Public Charity Act.
- Complete IRS Form 990 annually.
- Be aware of the Community Foundation's [Anti-Hate policy](#).
- Annual audit or a financial review by an independent CPA is within the last 2 years is recommended but **optional**, as an alternative a budget and bank statements.

- State whether they have an organizational Non-Discrimination Policy meeting all federal requirements as it applies to your type of organization.

Grant Timeline

- Application opens: 3/12/2024
- Final applications due: 5/17/2024 at 11:59pm
- Award notifications: 7/19/2024
- Grant funding period: 7/19/2024, to 7/19/2025
- Completion Report due: 9/30/2025

Application questions

- **Strategic Priority**– What priority is your project seeking to address?
 - Drop down options: Building Trust, Creating equitable access to capital, Strengthening community
- **Project Narrative**– Describe the gap in the current small business ecosystem that this project seeks to address. Clearly state how this project centers BIPOC-owned small businesses or entrepreneurs. If this is an existing project, how will these dollars be used to enhance services for BIPOC-owned businesses or entrepreneurs? (2,000 characters)
- **Vision**– How does this project create a nurturing environment for small business owners to thrive? How does this project solve a need related to the strategic priority you selected? (2,000 characters)
- **Funding**– Restate the amount you are seeking through this grant opportunity and describe any other funding sources and amounts you are exploring. If this proposal is not funded at the level requested, will you be able to implement aspects of the project as stated? (1,000 characters)
- **Implementation Plan and Budget**– Outline the expected timeline of your project, including anticipated milestones. Describe your budget in detail, itemizing each item or service, a description, and the portion of grant funds being dedicated to that piece. (2,000 characters)

- **Project Success**– What will project success look like and how will project success be measured and documented? How will you conduct program evaluation and outreach? (2,000 characters)

Evaluation Criteria

- **Project Alignment with BIPOC Focus**- The project proposal centers BIPOC-owned small businesses and/or entrepreneurs. The organization demonstrates an understanding of the specific needs and challenges faced by BIPOC -owned small businesses and entrepreneurs.
- **Project Alignment with Strategic Priority**- The proposal addresses specific needs related to the strategic priority selected.
- **Impact**- The project contributes to the growth and development of BIPOC-owned small businesses and/or entrepreneurs. The project fills gaps that exist in resources for BIPOC-owned small businesses.
- **Reach**- The organization has a plan to engage BIPOC-owned small businesses and entrepreneurs.
- **Innovation and Creativity**- The proposal showcases innovative approaches or creative solutions to address the unique needs of BIPOC-owned small businesses or entrepreneurs.
- **Sustainability**- The project is sustainable and provides a clear plan for continuation of the project beyond the grant period.
- **Measurable Outcomes and Evaluation Plan**- The organization defines clear and measurable outcomes for the project proposal and provides methods of measuring and evaluating project impact.

ROC Contact Info:

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