SUMMARY

Funding Priority: Lobbying & Advocacy to Support Vulnerable and Under-represented Populations

Funding Type: Unspecified

Funding Amount: $10,000

Funding Locations: Applicants’ work must demonstrably benefit, but need not be limited to, the Boston neighborhoods of Mission Hill, Fenway, Roxbury, and/or the South End.

GUIDELINES

Our Funding Priority

Northeastern Students4Giving will award a grant of $10,000 to an organization promoting public policies that support vulnerable and under-represented populations. Specifically, we seek to fund an organization using advocacy and lobbying to support the needs and interests of groups whose voice is not always heard in society, including but not limited to racial and ethnic minorities, foster youth, individuals with physical or mental disabilities or illness, veterans, LGBTQ individuals, low wage earners, immigrants, currently or previously incarcerated individuals, and elders.

Applicants may address the funding priority through any 501(c)(3)-permissible activity that may contribute to meaningful social change, such as lobbying, advocacy, coalition building, community organizing, and voter education and registration.

The populations and activities listed above are illustrative, not exhaustive. The work may be oriented toward the national, state, or city level, provided that the impact is demonstrably achieved in one or more of our target communities of Mission Hill, Fenway, Roxbury, and the South End.

What We Will Fund

Applicants must demonstrate an existing commitment and expertise relevant to this funding priority. The grant may be applied to a need of the organization’s choosing, including program support, operating and administrative expenses, or capacity building. Applicants will be asked to:

- Specify how they intend to use the grant.
- Explain how it will contribute to organization’s ability to effect lasting change on behalf of its constituents.
- Explain how they will know whether the grant has been used successfully.
- Explain the rationale for initiating a new program, if applicable.
- Provide lessons learned and evidence justifying the continuation of an existing program, if applicable.
We look favorably on applications from organizations working collaboratively with public agencies, other nonprofit organizations, and other stakeholders, but we will award the funding only to the applicant.

 eligibility

Applicants must adhere to the following eligibility requirements:

- NS4G will only fund registered 501(c)(3) organizations.
- As part of their selection process, students will conduct a limited number of site visits to organizations advancing to the final round of consideration. Applicants must be willing to host a site visit and be accessible via public transportation.
- At the conclusion of the grant period, the recipient will be asked to submit a report on their use of the grant.
- Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to diversity and inclusion within their organization and populations served.
- Applicants must adhere to comprehensive non-discriminatory practices in hiring and providing services.
- Faith-based organizations may apply, provided that the purpose of the grant is not to advance or promote a particular faith or worldview.
- Organizations that have received an NS4G grant in the past are not eligible to apply.

Our Decision-Making Framework

We engage in a rigorous review process to identify organizations that demonstrate:

- Clarity of purpose and a deep understanding of the need(s) being addressed and the community being served.
- Credible strategies for achieving and measuring impact.
- Fiscal responsibility and sustainability.
- Sound management and governance.

Application Process

We hope that our application process will benefit all applicants by exposing them to a larger pool of funders. Therefore, we ask applicants to complete a two-step process:

1) Submit a brief Grant Application directly to NS4G (www.northeastern.edu/impactlab/2015-grant).
2) Upload an organizational profile to the Boston Foundation’s Giving Common website (www.givingcommon.org).

To learn more about our rationale for working with The Giving Common, please visit our FAQ at www.northeastern.edu/impactlab/ns4g-faq

Important Dates and Contact Information

- The NS4G application and Giving Common profile must be completed by March 11, 2015. Please allow sufficient time for your Giving Common profile to be processed. We recommend submitting your information to the Giving Common by February 20, 2015.
- Grant awards will be announced in early April 2015.
- For more information about the Giving Common and support for completing your profile, please contact Leigh Handschuh, Nonprofit Effectiveness Program Associate, at leigh.handschuh@tbf.org or 617-338-1623.
- For more information about NS4G and our application process, please contact Rebecca Riccio, Director of The Social Impact Lab at ns4g@northeastern.edu or 617-373-4020.
More About Us

Northeastern Students4Giving (NS4G) is a philanthropy education program that enables students to make a positive and lasting impact in the communities where we live and learn through grant making. We make grants to community-based nonprofit organizations that address critical economic and social challenges facing the Boston neighborhoods of Mission Hill, Fenway, Roxbury, and the South End. Through our grant making and volunteer work, we further strengthen the relationship between the Northeastern University community, our grantees, and the neighborhoods they serve.

Since 2008, students have used a consensus-based approach to manage all stages of the NS4G funding cycle, from conducting needs assessments through making grant determinations. Past funding priorities have included trauma treatment, diversity and inclusion, youth violence, households at risk due to financial insecurity, positive youth development, thriving families, intimate partner violence, post-incarceration reintegration, and mental health. Our philanthropy is informed by coursework in human services and nonprofit management as well as many experiences students have had working and volunteering in the nonprofit sector. NS4G is advised by Social Impact Lab Director Rebecca Riccio and Human Services Director Lori Gardinier, MSW, PhD. Our decision making is completely independent of any other relationships applicants may have with the university.

Funding for NS4G’s grant making is provided by the Learning by Giving Foundation and other Northeastern University donors.