2017 NS4G Grant Guidelines

**Funding Priority:** Social & Economic Justice through Community Empowerment & Engagement

**Funding Type:** Overhead or Operating Expenses

**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.

**Our Funding Priority**

Northeastern Students4Giving will award a one-time grant of $10,000 to an organization striving to achieve social and economic justice for under-represented and marginalized communities. Specifically, we will fund programs that empower communities to engage with and strengthen social and economic institutions to protect rights and freedoms that may be threatened on the basis of individuals’ identities, including race and ethnicity, religion, gender or sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, socioeconomic status, immigration status, or other characteristics that put individuals at risk of social and economic injustice. Applicants must recognize communities’ inherent strengths and resilience and work with them directly to build their capacity to address systemic injustice and inequity. Applicants may focus on individual services or collective action, including but not limited to educating communities about their rights and strategies for securing them, legal counseling, social movement building, community organizing, advocacy, and lobbying. These examples are illustrative, not exhaustive. Proposed activities must be permissible for organizations with 501(c)(3) status.

**What We Will Fund**

This grant is intended to fund overhead and operating expenses that are essential to, but not directly associated with, the delivery of programs and services. Applicants must demonstrate an existing commitment and expertise relevant to this funding priority and will be asked to:

- Explain how the grant will contribute to the organization’s overall ability to advance social and/or economic justice through community empowerment and engagement.
- Explain how they hold themselves accountable to their constituents for meaningful results.

We favor applicants that:

- Demonstrate clarity of purpose informed by a deep understanding of the need(s) being addressed and the community being served.
- Are community oriented and use strengths-based and culturally appropriate approaches.
- Have demonstrated expertise in working with at-risk and under-represented populations.
- Provide a rigorous and defensible rationale and strategies for their work and evidence of how it results in systemic change.
- Demonstrate fiscal responsibility, sustainability, sound management, and ethical governance.
- Work collaboratively with public agencies, other nonprofits and community organizations.

Recognizing that some organizations applying may not use English as their primary language or have professional grant writers on staff, we will evaluate applications based on their substance, not writing style.
Eligibility
Applicants must adhere to the following eligibility requirements:

- Past recipients of NS4G grants are not eligible to apply.
- 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 activities during the period of the grant.
- Applicants must adhere to comprehensive non-discriminatory practices in hiring and providing services and must demonstrate a commitment to diversity and inclusion within their organization.
- Faith-based organizations may apply, provided that the purpose of the grant is not to advance or promote a particular faith or worldview.

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. The application is available [here](#)

To learn more about our rationale for working with The Giving Common, please visit our FAQ [here](#).

Important Dates and Contact Information
The NS4G application and Giving Common profile must be completed by March 10, 2017. Please allow sufficient time for your Giving Common profile to be processed. We recommend submitting your information to the Giving Common by February 17, 2017. Grant awards will be announced in early April 2017.

For more information about the Giving Common and support for completing your profile, please contact Leigh Handschuh, Senior Program Associate, Nonprofit Effectiveness, at [leigh.handschuh@tbf.org](mailto: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](mailto:ns4g@northeastern.edu) or 617-373-4020.

About Us
Northeastern Students4Giving (NS4G) is an experiential 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, 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, mental health, and policy and advocacy to support under-represented families. 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.