



Grantmaking Frequently Asked Questions

Fall 2023

Below is a *Frequently Asked Questions* (FAQ) document to provide clarity around Deaconess Foundation's new Seeding the Future Grants and general information about the grantmaking process.

Seeding the Future Grants

What are Seeding the Future Grants?

Seeding the Future Grants are offered to support efforts that pursue accelerated change in conditions and systems transformation through coalition and base building, grassroots advocacy, civic engagement, community organizing, and public policy development/change. Funding is unrestricted and supports general operations.

What are examples of efforts funding may support?

- Advancement of coordinated local or state public policy advocacy and organizing campaigns driving meaningful, systemic change that may include voter engagement, education and mobilization;
- Expansion of organizing capacity to respond to the ever-evolving legislative and electoral landscape;
- Development of research and analysis, convenings and community campaigns that generate innovative approaches to solving policy challenges; and/or
- The testing and incubating of opportunistic or innovative initiatives that are well-positioned to advance policy change such as ballot initiatives.

How may funding be used?

Funding may be used to address organizational needs, support salaries and benefits, invest in technology, strengthen communications efforts, or to meet other operational needs to advance systems change.



Do organizations that submitted a funding proposal for a 2023 Policy Campaign/Collaborative Grant need to resubmit for a Seeding the Future Grant?

No, organizations that have already submitted a proposal for the 2023 Policy Campaign/Collaborative Grant do not need to submit a new proposal for the Seeding the Future Grant this year. Please email granthelp@deaconess.org to express your interest in being considered for a Seeding the Future Grant and a member of our grantmaking team will contact you to discuss next steps.

What is the grant timeframe?

Seeding the Future Grants will be awarded for one year for general operating support and are non-renewable.

What is the award amount for each grant?

Each grant awarded will range from \$15,000 to \$20,000.

Do organizations need to resubmit each year for a Seeding the Future Grant?

Generally, yes, organizations will need to submit a new proposal each year for a Seeding the Future Grant.

Is there a limit to the number of times an organization can submit a funding proposal and be awarded a Seeding the Future Grant?

Organizations that have been awarded a Seeding the Future Grant are not eligible to apply for another Seeding the Future Grant until after the one-year covenant is completed.

Organizations awarded a Seeding the Future Grant are eligible to apply for grants other than the Seeding the Future Grants (e.g. Policy Campaign Grant) that Deaconess offers during the term of the one-year covenant.

When is the 2023 Seeding the Future Grant deadline?

Proposals for the Seeding the Future Grants are accepted on a rolling basis, meaning organizations may submit a proposal at any time. Deaconess will be reviewing proposals monthly in 2023 on the following dates September 22nd, October 20th, and November 10th. Organizations will be notified of the status of their submitted proposal following each review cycle.



Will the Seeding the Future Grant be offered in 2024?

Yes, Seeding the Future Grant proposals will be reviewed on a quarterly basis on the following 2024 dates February 23rd, May 31st, August 30th, and November 1st.

Can an organization submit a proposal for and receive a Seeding the Future Grant in 2023 and also submit a proposal for the 2024 Policy Campaign Grant?

Yes, organizations can submit funding proposals for both the Seeding the Future Grant and a separate proposal for the Policy Campaign Grant which will open in late November 2023.

General Inquiries

Who should submit a funding proposal?

Organizations working to improve conditions for community health and well-being through a systems transformation approach through coalition and base building, grassroots advocacy, civic engagement, community organizing, and public policy development/change are encouraged to submit a proposal if they meet the other eligibility criteria. Organizations' work should include efforts that align with [our strategy](#) to achieve liberation in the next seven generations and abolish racial and structural inequities that are felt in the day-to-day lives of all people across the Eastern Missouri and Southern Illinois footprint.

Do organizations need a 501(c)(3) status to submit a funding proposal?

No, organizations need either their own [501\(c\)\(3\) tax exemption](#) OR a fiscal agent. Deaconess aims to reduce/eliminate barriers to accessing grant funding. An organization that does not have its own 501(c)(3) status can identify a fiscal agent - an organization or a legal entity with a 501(c)(3) tax exemption that can manage any awarded funds on its behalf. Organizations will complete the proposal in the online portal and upload the memorandum of understanding (MOU) detailing the confirmation of the fiscal agent relationship and the fiscal agent's Employer Identification (EIN) number.

If a community effort or group does not have 1) an identified fiscal agent or 2) a 501(c)(3) status and wants to apply for a grant with Deaconess, we can find a potential match to support your application if awarded. If you need to be paired with a fiscal agent email granthelp@deaconess.org.



Can organizations outside of St. Louis submit a funding proposal?

Yes, any organization whose work aligns with the grant criteria *AND* is working in serving one or more of the counties in Deaconess' footprint is eligible to submit a funding proposal. Deaconess' footprint includes St. Louis City, St. Louis, Jefferson, St. Charles, and Franklin Counties in Missouri and Madison, St. Clair, and Monroe Counties in Illinois.

How can general operating funds be used?

Funding is unrestricted. Funding may be used to address organizational needs, support salaries and benefits, invest in technology, strengthen communication efforts, or to meet other operational needs.

If I have additional questions, who should I contact?

For questions regarding funding opportunities with Deaconess Foundation, please contact Deleshā George, Program Manager, at deleshag@deaconess.org or (314) 356-2571. Visit deaconess.org/funding-opportunities to also learn more.