

"There is always light. Only if we are brave enough to see it. There is always light. Only if we are brave enough to be it."

-Amanda Gorman

Background

We believe North Texas can be a place where all residents have the opportunity to fulfill their highest potential. Unfortunately, education, safety, health and economic data reveal significantly disparate outcomes for people of color in our community. In response, the Community Foundation commits to do what we do best: mobilize generosity to address community needs. That's why, through the generosity of our Donors, we launched the Fund to Advance Racial Equity. This fund provides grant funding for nonprofit organizations who are on the front lines addressing the issues of racism and inequity in our community. When we tackle the existing gaps in racial equity, our community can become a place where all our residents can learn, work, and further contribute to a healthy, thriving and prosperous place to call home.

We are privileged to work alongside many committed residents, organizations, and institutions already engaged in this work. An Advisory Council comprised of approximately twenty diverse community members informs the Fund's work, keeps the Fund accountable to its goals, champions the effort and helps connect grantees to decision makers. A diverse subset of the Advisory Council serves as the Grant Committee, reviewing proposals and making funding recommendations. A list of all Advisory Council members can be found on the FARE webpage [here](#).

Eligibility

- 501(c)(3) organizations located in Fort Worth or Arlington (or with a 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor)
- Municipal entities of the City of Fort Worth or the City of Arlington
- Demonstrated commitment and active engagement in one or more of the Priority Areas described below
- Funds must be expended by April 2023

The Fund to Advance Racial Equity will prioritize organizations with racial diversity in their executive leadership or board and/or are located in neighborhoods where a majority of residents are people of

color. However, all eligible organizations will be considered for support as we recognize the responsibility of racial equity falls on all of us. Please see the scoring criteria further down for more information.

Priority Areas

Funds may be requested for projects, programs, staffing, or operations related to one or more of the following:

Building Understanding *between racially diverse groups to raise awareness of challenges and solutions.*

- Promoting constructive dialogue or public awareness related to race;
- Expanding knowledge of root causes and systems contributing to racial inequity;
- Storytelling and other forms of artistic expression that give voice to the lived experience of those historically marginalized by race or that lift up their contributions to our community; or
- Advocacy that empowers the voices of people of color to advance systemic change related to racial equity.

Supporting Community Leadership *that advances diverse perspectives.*

- Activate networks that provide opportunities for community leaders to engage decision makers;
- Efforts that increase diverse representation in community leadership, such as programs to support diversifying nonprofit boards or civic participation; or
- Providing community-wide professional development that advances best practices and supports change efforts.

Improving Neighborhood-Police Trust *between residents and law enforcement to heal historic divides, bridge gaps, and develop new relationships.*

- Engaging residents and police officers in shared activities to build understanding and trust;
- Providing actionable data for decision makers regarding perception, policies, or practices related to law enforcement; or
- Other activities that support equitable policing.

Ineligible Funding Requests

- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion training for an individual nonprofit or municipal entity
- Expenses incurred prior to June 2022
- Funding for organizations that may serve people of color but that do not have initiatives or programs that align with one or more of FARE's priority areas
- Lobbying
- Political campaigns
- Religious programs focused on evangelism

Award Amounts

Applicants may request funds in one of the following categories:

- Up to \$5,000
- \$5,001 – \$15,000
- \$15,001 – \$30,000
- \$30,001 - \$50,000 (Large-scale projects only)

Large-Scale Projects

The Grant Committee will consider awarding several grants in the range of \$30,001 - \$50,000. Requests should align with one or more of the priority areas listed above. Requests in this category will be fully funded or not funded at all (no partial funding). This will be the most competitive category in the FARE grant cycle. Receipt of a grant in this category in last year's grant cycle does not guarantee funding again this year.

Organization Eligibility

- **Minimum annual operating budget of \$150,000**
- Organization has a track record of significant impact in the community in one of the priority areas

Project Categories

- Capital campaigns
- Staffing
- Special initiatives or projects/programs with broad community reach

Ineligible

- Short-term projects or programs (e.g. a week-long youth camp)

Large-scale Projects Application Process

- **Organizations applying for a \$30,001 - \$50,000** grant must submit a Letter of Intent by 5PM on March 23, 2022.
- Organizations will be notified if they are being invited to submit a proposal by March 30.
- Proposals must be submitted by 5PM on April 22, 2022.

Nonprofit Cohort

After grants have been awarded, grantee executive directors/senior leadership will be invited to join a participant-driven learning and networking cohort. North Texas Community Foundation will survey grantees to determine the topics to be addressed and frequency of meetings. Cohort meetings could include:

- Professional development workshops on topics such as grant writing, leadership, or communications;
- Sharing best-practices, resources, project updates, etc.; and
- Networking opportunities with FARE grantees, FARE Advisory Council members, Community Foundation fundholders, and community leaders.

Timeline

February 14	Application opens
March 1	Virtual nonprofit orientation (2:00-3:00PM)
March 23	Letter of Intent deadline for \$30,001 – \$50,000 requests only (5:00PM)
April 22	Proposal deadline (5:00PM)
May 31	Award notifications
June	Grants distributed at Grantee Celebration

Criteria for Selection

- Proposal strongly advances on of FARE’s priority areas (30%)
- Organization clearly defines how success will be measured (15%)
- Clear plan presented for how intended beneficiaries of the grant will be engaged (15%)
- Percentage of people of color in executive leadership (10%)
- Percentage of people of color in zip code organization is based (10%)
- Budget clearly defines how funds will be used and aligns with proposal (10%)
- Percentage of people of color on Board of Directors (5%)
- Funding can be utilized by April 2023 (5%)

How to Apply

Organizations may submit a proposal (one per agency) through the Community Foundation's grants portal [here](#).

A virtual nonprofit orientation will be held on Tuesday, March 1st from 2:00-3:00PM. A recording of the orientation will be available on the FARE webpage for those unable to attend. If you are interested in attending you may register [here](#).

Please note organizations may submit a short video (no more than two minutes in length) with their proposal. Videos recorded via phone camera are acceptable. More details are in the application.

School-based projects must submit a letter of support from the organization's Board Chair.

If you are using a fiscal sponsor, you will be required to upload the IRS 501(c)(3) determination letter of the fiscal sponsor.

To see a list of what was funded by FARE in 2021, click [here](#).

Questions?

For questions concerning eligibility:

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For questions regarding the grants portal:

Susan Van Meter
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