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Open Call for Grant Proposals: for community-based and grassroots organizations serving youth and families in NYS counties (excluding NYC).

Summary:

- RHF will be making 7-10 grants ranging in size from \$10,000-\$50,000, with 1–3-year grant commitments.
- The purpose of these grants is to support local community-based and grassroots organizations to support children, youth, and families who are at-risk or already involved in the child welfare system and communities that are deeply surveilled and impacted.
- Organizations may use the funds to organize local communities to build power and advocate for family justice in the family policing/child welfare space or address the intersection of education, mental health, housing and resource-access; and/or to provide material supports to families, and organizational capacity building through general operating funds.
- RHF seeks to support the capacity and development of organizations operating in NYS counties excluding NYC, and priority will be given to organizations operating in local communities in the regions in **Albany, Erie, Monroe, Nassau, Onondaga, Suffolk, Westchester counties.**
- Proposals are due on Thursday, November 30, 2023, to Hope Newton via email at hnewton@rhfdn.org.

Overview:

The [Redlich Horwitz Foundation](#) (RHF) seeks to support local grassroots organizing and community-support efforts to ensure families can thrive without the threat of family policing and surveillance by child protective services. Data shows that 70% of calls to the State Central Registry (SCR) hotline are for reasons of suspected neglect, which is often a proxy for poverty. These calls to the SCR result in families across NY being subjected to traumatic and intrusive CPS investigations, and rarely lead to families receiving basic concrete supports and services. We believe that local community-based organizations serve in their own neighborhoods as the most trusted purveyors of this support for families. Led by local community members and volunteers, these small organizations are also closest to the needs and wants of their neighbors, and they also identify larger systemic failures that need to change, be it with the schools, healthcare, police, or CPS. These organizations and leaders are the ones community members turn to when they are in need and when there is a reason to fight against injustice. RHF hopes to support these organizations to provide their communities with material supports, information and events, and advocacy opportunities to change oppressive systems and structures.

RHF seeks to identify and support the resources and capacity of community-based organizations that are meeting the concrete needs of children and families and leading community-based grassroots organizing. We want to support efforts to build power and achieve justice for families, related to family policing/child welfare, education, mental health, housing, and resource-access.

Who Should Apply: Organizations that are....

1. An IRS designated 501c3 or are fiscally sponsored by a 501c3 organization in good standing.
2. Working at a local level in Erie, Monroe, Onondaga, Albany, Westchester, and Long Island.
3. Providing mutual aid or other supports.

4. Either currently doing grassroots organizing or would like to organize/engage communities in developing solutions to address social issues negatively impacting individuals and families.
5. Interested in developing relationships with local and state elected officials to leverage lived experience for positive change.
6. BIPOC-led; by staff, board, and/or volunteers that represent the communities the organization serves; and
7. Organizations with budgets under \$350,000 will be given preference but organizations up to \$5 million are eligible.

RHF expects our funding to support some of the following uses:

SEED Grants: To support the facilitation of community events, conversations or action days that will move the community forward in their knowledge and understanding about the family policing system in NY and its impact on families. This may include discussions of family policing at cross-system intersections such as education, housing, childcare, domestic violence, or the criminal injustice system, etc. and could be in the form of “know your rights” trainings, storytelling, etc. This represents an early investment in an organization’s developing structure and strategy for future efforts. These organizations are usually less than five-years-old. The principal founder(s) usually work with volunteers and are either employed full-time elsewhere or have separate income until the organization builds an infrastructure and capacity with funding for them to commit full-time with a salary. Organizational budgets may be less than \$50,000 and are eligible to apply for a grant up to \$20,000 grant for 1 year.

CULTIVATE Grants: The organization is working to build a core group of lived experience experts (LEX) or allies to engage in future local or statewide advocacy or grassroots organizing efforts that will focus on supporting advocacy activities that intersect with dismantling family surveillance or separation. For organizations that already engage in grassroots organizing activities but not directly in the family policing space to expand or deepen their advocacy work. These organizations have been in existence for 5-10 years and have cultivated relationships with government agencies, have access to some funding sources with demonstrated impact as part of a campaign. This organization structure usually has one full-time staff member (usually, the founder), with part-time staff, advisors, and limited contractual partners. This organization structure effectively utilizes skilled volunteer staff, advisors, and may also have a fiscal sponsor. Organizational budgets may range from \$50,000+ and are eligible to apply for a maximum grant of \$25,000 each year for up to three years.

CAPACITY Grants: The organization seeks general operating grants to support burgeoning grassroots / community-based organizations that are anchored in and address hyper-local community needs (to prevent contact or further interaction with the child welfare system) through direct services or advocacy initiatives. Priority would be given to organizations that are led by people with lived system experience or leadership of people of color that have been engaged in one or more campaigns over the past 7 years with some results, are open to collaborations, have demonstrated engagement with coalitions, and are interested in developing and strengthening their advocacy efforts. This organizational structure has at least one full-time staff member, part-time staff members or volunteers. Annual organizational budget between \$200,00 - \$5 million are eligible to apply for up to \$50,000 each year, for up to three years.

Some organizational/project missions may include:

- Community-building and/or power building for people affected or impacted by family policing.
- Decreasing isolation and stigma of child welfare engagement or impact.
- Building understanding, awareness and solutions to address previous and intergenerational experiences within family policing.
- Mental health support related to harm caused by family policing or foster system experiences, including community-based alternatives to traditional therapy.
- Increase availability/understanding of parent rights.
- Support for awareness, education, and storytelling via in person, virtual or digital platforms.
- Develop organization capacity to deepen or expand program or advocacy reach.

FAQs

An informational webinar was held on November 6th to provide a brief overview of the Open Call and to answer specific questions from applicants. RHF staff are also available for one-on-one phone calls. Please email Hope Newton hnewton@rhfdn.org to schedule.

Watch our webinar recap [here](#) use Passcode: *ep03XJv

Q: *What is the maximum organizational budget for eligibility?*

A: The application is now updated to set the organizational budget maximum at \$5 million.

Q: *Are municipal organizations like NYS Youth Bureaus allowed to apply?*

A: The priority for this open call is grassroots and community-based organizations, but we recognize that youth bureaus have a particular history and mode of work with engaging folks with lived experience. We are utilizing this open call to deepen our relationships and connections with groups who are interested in grassroots organizing & advocacy and are community-based. We are hoping to support organizations that are led by community members here as opposed to organizations that support counties with our limited dollars. We would want to evaluate what your relationship is with community-based organizations.

Q: *Are organizations founded in NYC but work in another county eligible to apply?*

A: Yes, you are eligible, and we encourage you to apply for your work in the other county.

Q: *Are existing partners eligible to apply?*

A: Likely no unless it's to launch new grassroots organizing work. We welcome existing partners to encourage other grassroots and community organizations doing this work to apply as we are looking to expand our partnerships in the respective counties.

Q: *To clarify, is this for county or government run programs?*

A: No. We are looking for grassroots organizations and community-led groups.

Q: *Are organizations that support community nonprofits and grassroots in capacity building eligible to apply?*

A: While we recognize the important and necessary work that capacity-building organizations do with nonprofits and grassroots groups in this space, we're looking for organizations that are actually doing the work.

Q: *Are service providers who collaborate with systems with the goal of changing their approach to working with children and families eligible to apply? For example working with Family Treatment Court (Suffolk County Hope for Youth)*

A: This grant is looking to support folks that are hoping to build in movement spaces. Determining factors for direct service organizations would revolve around goals and strategies.

Q: *Are you flexible on the categories?*

A: Yes, applications will be re-classified for better fit.

Q: *Are organizations under a 501c4 eligible ?(*

A: We can only grant through 501c3. If you have a fiscal sponsor that is 501c3, we can grant through your fiscal sponsor. We can only grant through those avenues. However, we encourage you to apply and we can discuss and try to figure that out.

Q: *If the organization has not been around for 5 years, are you still willing to work with them?*

A: We recognize that there are a lot of cases where grassroots organizations have been built out of the work, passion and experience of community leaders and experts, and many folks have been doing that work without being formally founded but can still demonstrate that history. Defining your lived experience in this space would really be helpful. A strong application will make the case for that demonstrated history and experience of leadership, whether it's the leadership or the implementation team; that is something that we consider if there is other demonstrated history and experience.

Q: *Are organizations that are not child welfare-focused, but are at the intersection of housing, education, migrant rights, food justice, interested in educating their constituents eligible?*

A: Yes.

Q: *Is this specifically related to child welfare? For example, code enforcement that disproportionately impact families and engaging in tenant organizing.*

A: We are definitely looking at those intersectional issues that put families at risk of family policing involvement. We are looking to build relationships with organizations supporting the concrete needs of families. That's exactly the type of work that we are in alignment with.

Q: *Can we apply for budget lines that include refreshments for town halls and other community meetings, gift cards to attend events/meetings, etc.?*

A: Yes. We welcome that you include and prioritize supporting the ability for community members to participate in the events, and that may include transportation, stipends, food, or childcare. We are looking for budgets that would outline how you would use the grant funds.

Timeline for Open Call for Proposals

- a. Request for Proposals opens October 27, 2023.
- b. Informational webinar November 6, 3:30pm - 4:30pm EST.
- c. RHF staff will answer any questions via phone or email during the application period.
- d. Proposals due 5pm on November 30th.
- e. Decisions announced by December 18th.
- f. Funds distributed by end of December 2023.

Grant Application

Please submit the following information to apply for a grant, due to Hope Newton (hnewton@rhfdn.org) no later than November 30, 2023. We expect proposals to be no more than 3-5 pages with budget attachment.

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| Organization Name: | |
| Year organization started: | |
| Lead staff name: | |
| Lead staff email and phone: | |
| Grant amount requested: | |
| Type of grant requested: (Seed, Cultivate, Capacity) | |
| City, County or regions served: | |
| Total budget for current fiscal year: | |

1. Is your organization an IRS 501(c)(3) as designated by the IRS? (Yes or No): If no, please provide your Fiscal Sponsor Name and contact information.
2. Background information: Share information about your organization’s history and work. What do you see as your mission and/or vision for the organization? What community challenge or problem are you addressing? How does that challenge intersect with child welfare involvement for your community?
3. What strategies are you using to address the need or problem?
4. Describe the qualifications/expertise/lived experiences of key people that lead this work.
5. Please share information on your organization’s experience or interest in grassroots organizing and advocacy. Describe your motivations, goals you might have, and how you intend to start, continue, or expand your organizing efforts.
6. Please describe what you hope to achieve with this additional funding and what you would spend the money on.
7. Please include a basic organizational budget that lists out your expenses and sources of funds like the template below.

| | |
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| Expenses | |
| Volunteer or staff compensation | \$0 |
| Support for community members: food, diapers, cash support, etc. | \$0 |
| Transportation | \$0 |
| Participant stipends | \$0 |
| Events, food, etc | |
| Revenue (list out revenue sources and/or names or foundation or corporate gifts) | |
| In kind donations | \$0 |
| Individual cash donations | \$0 |
| Fundraiser net proceeds | \$0 |
| Community Foundation of NY grant | \$0 |

Contact information for questions and proposal submissions:

Hope Newton, Program Officer. Email: hnewton@rhfdn.org Phone: (845) 392-6871

About Redlich Horwitz Foundation

RHF envisions a future New York where children, youth and families are together, happy and healthy; and free from oversurveillance, regulation and policing by the child welfare system. We work to end the unnecessary dismantling of families by child protective services due to spurious findings of “neglect,” a determination that often conflates poverty and race with maltreatment. We support efforts to eliminate bias, pervasive racism, and socioeconomic discrimination against families, and work to ensure the child welfare system keeps the small percentage of children at risk of physical harm safe and supported. We strive to be a better ally to impacted families and communities, and we commit to centering racial justice and equity in our mission, our partnerships, and our operations. We provide grant funding to statewide advocacy coalitions, local grassroots organizations, and policy infrastructure that centers lived experience experts in leadership, priority setting and strategy implementation.