



## **INVESTING IN SOCIAL WORK'S FUTURE: COLLABORATION, INNOVATION, IMPACT**

### Invitation Only Request for Proposals (Renewal Grants)

The New York Community Trust (The Trust), established in 1924, is one of the largest and oldest community foundations in the United States. With assets of more than \$3 billion, it makes close to \$50 million in competitive grants across three areas—Healthy Lives, Promising Futures, and Thriving Communities—for a range of research, advocacy, and service delivery projects. The Trust has several field-of-interest funds that focus on social work practice, social worker training, and scholarships for social workers, making it one of the largest foundation funders in the field of social work in the country. Social workers toil on the forefront of efforts to address harms resulting from income inequality, the pandemic, racism, and other societal challenges. As a result, many social work professionals are uniquely situated to lead systemic efforts to repair these harms. Investments in the profession, particularly where social workers are trained and practice, can help mobilize the hundreds of thousands of professional social workers and their institutions to improve the systems—government, nonprofit, academic, or community—that contribute to longstanding inequities.

In 2021, The Trust hired a consultant and convened an advisory committee of experts to review our social work grantmaking and identify new and emerging issues. The consultant interviewed more than a dozen national and local leaders, assessed the role of philanthropy in the area of social work practice, and researched public and private funding trends. Findings from the interviews and research were consolidated into a revised strategy and an open call invited nonprofits to submit requests for two years of funding in one of three categories:

1. Helping community groups and academic institutions work together to address needs in a community;
2. Expanding the pipeline of students of color and from low-income backgrounds into social work academic programs; and
3. Building the capacity and stature of the field and profession of social work through a combination of policy, advocacy, and/or research.



Given the national scope of some of The Trust’s social work funds, the third priority allowed submissions from outside of New York. The remaining two focused on the eight downstate New York counties.

In June 2022, based on recommendations of the advisory committee, The Trust’s board approved 17 projects for two-year grants: six collaborations between community groups and schools of social work (category 1); five projects to expand the pipeline of students of color into social work (category 2); and six projects to build the stature and capacity of the field (category 3). Recommendations include 11 projects led by New York City nonprofits or universities, three led by Long Island institutions, and three led by national groups. In December 2024, the Trust’s board approved renewal grants for seven of the 17 projects.

**This invitation-only request for proposals seeks renewal requests from the 10 groups completing their projects. The submissions should be at the same level as the original grant. The 10 groups invited to submit a renewal proposal by March 3, 2025:**

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Grant Purpose</u>
Catholic Charities	To incorporate the perspectives of women asylum seekers in social work education and practice.
JASA	To use social workers to help homeless older adults with complex needs.
Samaritan Daytop Village	To train social workers to work in residential drug treatment programs.
Adelphi University School of Social Work	To expand the pipeline of students of color and from low-income backgrounds into social work academic programs.
Columbia University School of Social Work	To expand the pipeline of students of color and from low-income backgrounds into social work academic programs.

Touro College Graduate School of Social Work	To expand the pipeline of students of color and from low-income backgrounds into social work academic programs.
CAMBA	To train social workers to treat homeless shelter residents who have experienced trauma.
Herstory Writers Workshop	To use social workers to address racial disparities in the Wyandanch school district.
Stony Brook University School of Social Welfare	To expand the pipeline of students of color and from low-income backgrounds into social work academic programs.
Yeshiva University	To train social workers to engage voters.

Note: Grantees outside of the New York area should add up to \$5,000 to their grant request to cover travel costs for at least two team members to come to at least one in-person grantee convening.

The submissions for renewal grants should include the following components and should not exceed 5 pages:

1. A brief statement of the public policy or systemic service delivery problem you seek to address and how you are addressing it – including goals, planned activities, and expected outcomes;
2. A brief summary of progress made during the first grant period, and how you plan to continue this work, while making any improvements, adjustments, expansions, or other changes based on your experience so far and the current needs of the program; and
3. A brief statement of how the project will be sustained after The Trust’s support ends.
4. A brief cover letter on the organization’s letterhead signed by the paid staff head or designee confirming the organizational commitment to the project (*not included in the 5-page limit*);



5. An itemized project budget that reflects the full costs of carrying out the project and lists any other sources of funding, including in-kind support (*not included in the 5-page limit*);
6. Your organization's current annual operating budget (*not included in the 5-page limit*) and
7. A list of your board of directors, including affiliations (*not included in the 5-page limit*).

### **Submission Directions**

1. Assemble and merge items **1 to 7** above into a single PDF file no more than 25 MB in size, name it in the following format: "*Applicant Organization Name.pdf*".
2. Complete a New York City and National: *Investing in Social Work's Future: Collaboration, Innovation, Impact RFP (Invitation Only)* Cover Sheet
  - a. For purposes of the staff and board ethnicity breakdown, please provide information for the entire institution, not just the department where the work may occur. These fields cannot be left blank. Applications without this information will not be considered.
  - b. If you are applying from an academic institution or research university, your department administrator can provide the EIN, staff composition, and/or other information requested on the cover sheet. Some applicants prefer to have the grant go to a funds administrator (e.g., a research foundation for the institution). The cover sheet allows this option. You will need to (i) check the box noting that is your preference, and (ii) enter the funds administrator's EIN on the form in the appropriate location.
  - c. Applicant institutions should note The Trust's policy for overhead costs for grant administration for projects at universities, hospitals, academic medical centers, and affiliated nonprofit fiscal sponsors (e.g. foundations that receive private funds on behalf of the institution). **For these institutions, overhead costs may not exceed five percent of the total project budget. Administrative costs related to carrying out the proposed grant activities, including space, supplies, and technology for project staff, are not subject to the five percent limit and should be identified separately in the proposed budget.**



3. Because you will need to submit the proposal and the Cover Sheet together, we recommend making sure items 1 to 7 are in a single PDF prior to starting the Cover Sheet. You will know you have been successful in submitting both when after uploading the document you see “You have successfully uploaded your PDF” on your screen.
4. Once uploaded, check the certification box at the end and click submit. You will get an email confirming the proposal has been received. This email will include—as a PDF attachment—the cover sheet you just completed. The email will be sent to the email address entered in the “Information about Person Completing this Form” field on the cover sheet.
5. Please note The Trust's communications about the result of your submission will be by email, whether notification of a decline or grant. Please add [noreply@thenytrust.org](mailto:noreply@thenytrust.org) to your address book so important communications do not get caught in spam filters.

#### **Timeline for Proposal Submission and Funding Decisions**

- Proposals are due by **5 p.m. (Eastern) on Monday, March 3, 2025.** (*Submitted electronically via The New York Community Trust’s [Grantseeker Portal](#)*)
- Grant decisions issued by **Monday, June 16, 2025.**
- Grant period will be from **July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027.**

Grantees will be expected to attend at least one Trust-hosted convening each year to share experiences and learning. Convenings may be a combination of virtual or in-person.

Direct RFP content questions to:

Chantella Mitchell, Program Director at [cmitchell@thenytrust.org](mailto:cmitchell@thenytrust.org).

For assistance completing the cover sheet, uploading the proposal, or navigating The Trust’s Grantseeker Portal, contact: Melanie DeLorenzo at [mdelorenzo@thenytrust.org](mailto:mdelorenzo@thenytrust.org).