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Proposals for The New York Community Trust—New York City’s Ongoing Competitive Grants Program (2026)

After reading the guidelines on the [What We Do \(& Don’t\) Fund](#) page of our [website](#) to assure the fit between your project and our program, please put together the following materials in a single PDF document of less than 25MB titled [your organization name.pdf]*:

1. A brief cover letter on the organization’s letterhead signed by the paid staff head or designee that confirms the organizational commitment to the project;
2. A narrative proposal (no more than five numbered pages) that includes:
 - A description of your agency’s background (mission, major activities, and credentials for carrying out the project);
 - A brief statement of the public policy or systemic service delivery problem you seek to address;
 - A description of your plans to address the problem, including the project’s:
 - goals and objectives;
 - planned activities, including who will benefit and how policies, systems, or services will improve;
 - expected outcomes and plan for measuring results; and
 - a brief statement of how the project will be sustained after The Trust’s support ends.
 - For requests for renewed Trust funding, please also include the following:
 - a description of progress made with earlier Trust support.

The narrative need not address the topics in order, or even one at a time. Rather, the narrative should make a compelling case for the needed changes, how the proposed activities will lead to the desired change, and why your organization is prepared to carry out the project.

3. An itemized project budget that reflects the full costs of carrying out the project (as opposed to just the amount requested from The Trust). The budget should list other pending and/or confirmed income to support the project, as well as any in-kind contributions (if applicable). Please round up to the nearest thousand for all line items in the project budget; **
4. Your current year annual operating budget and, for arts and culture groups only, actual income and expenses for the most recently completed fiscal year; and
5. A list of your board of directors, including affiliations. The Trust generally requires that a board should have at least four members (we prefer at least five); all board members should be unrelated; and no more than one board member should be paid, typically the paid staff head.

**** Note:** For grants to universities, hospitals, academic medical centers, and affiliated nonprofit fiscal sponsors (e.g. research foundations affiliated with fundraising vehicles of government agencies), overhead costs for grant administration may not exceed five percent of the total project budget. Administrative costs related to carrying out the proposed grant activities, including space, materials and supplies, and technology for project staff, are not subject to the five percent limit, and should be identified separately in the proposed itemized project budget.

You may submit a proposal anytime to our competitive grants program. (This does not include the national and international environment program). *

We build in a long lead time to review proposals and prepare grant recommendations for five board meetings each year (February, April, June, October, and December). Program staff weigh many considerations in preparing grant recommendations and cannot promise that any proposal will be considered at a particular board meeting.

The dates in the table below indicate when applicants can expect a decision on their grant application. Please note that these are **NOT** due dates.

Applications received in the Grantseeker Portal by:	Decision notification sent by email no later than:
Second Tuesday in February	End of October of the same year
Second Tuesday in May	End of December of the same year
Second Tuesday in September	End of March of the following year

* **Note:** Starting in 2026, we have changed how we operate our [national and international environment program](#).

Our **national environment program** issued a [Request for Proposals](#) which will accept proposals through April 27, 2026, for projects working in the United States (including its territories).

For our **international environment program**, proposals are by invitation only.

Demographic data has a critical role across the nonprofit sector. As The Trust deepens its commitment to using demographic data as a tool in advancing equity, we will continue to request nonprofits seeking grants to provide demographic data on their staff and board as part of completing our cover sheet.

The Trust has also chosen to participate in [Demographics by Candid](#), a campaign to promote greater transparency in the nonprofit field and to expand our collective knowledge base.

We encourage you to participate in this campaign by claiming your organization's Candid/GuideStar profile at www.guidestar.org if you haven't done so already (Candid offers a free, on-demand course to help you claim your profile).

Participating in Demographics via Candid is not a requirement to complete a grant application with The New York Community Trust.

Revised 2/20/26