



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.

The invitation-only request for proposals seeks renewal requests from the 9 groups completing their projects. (The remaining 8 groups requested no-cost extensions and will be invited to submit proposals in early 2025). The submissions should be at the same level as the original grant. The 9 groups invited to submit a renewal proposal by August 1, 2024:

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Grant Purpose</u>
Adelphi University School of Social Work	To expand the pipeline of students of color and from low-income backgrounds into social work academic programs
Bronx Defenders	To help legal service providers across the country add social workers to their legal teams.
Center for Health and Social Care Integration	To lead a national coalition to advocate for the role of social workers in health care.
Council on Social Work Education	To train social work doctoral students in policy and legislative advocacy.



Hunter College of CUNY School of Social Work	To expand the pipeline of students of color and from low-income backgrounds into social work academic programs
Kingsbridge Heights Community Center	To train bilingual social workers to provide mental health care to non-English speaking clients at eight settlement houses.
United Neighborhood Houses of NY	To advocate for the interests and concerns of New York’s social workers.
University of Maryland	To help social work doctoral students translate their dissertation research into policy and practice.
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 grants 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 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 5-page limit*);
6. Your organization's current annual operating budget (*not included in 5-page limit*) and
7. A list of your board of directors, including affiliations (*not included in 5-page limit*).

Submission Directions

1. Assemble and merge items **1 to 8** 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 Proposal Cover Sheet. Some applicants prefer to have the grant go to a funds administrator (e.g., a research foundation for the institution). The proposal coversheet 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 8 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 Proposal 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 Proposal 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 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 **5pm (Eastern) on Thursday, August 1, 2024.** *(Submitted electronically via The New York Community Trust’s portal through its website)*
- Grant decisions issued by **Monday, December 16, 2024.**
- Grant period will be from **January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2026.**

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 Officer at cmitchell@thenytrust.org.

For assistance completing the proposal coversheet, uploading the proposal, or navigating The Trust’s portal, contact:

Marc Schell, Departmental Administrator at mschell@thenytrust.org.