

# The Transgender Strategy Fund - General Operating Grants

## Funding Request

Transgender Strategy Center (TSC) is offering funding through the Transgender Strategy Fund to support organizations led by and serving transgender and gender nonconforming (TGNC) people.

The primary aim of the Transgender Strategy Fund is to support organizations and leaders who seek to elevate TGNC liberation in their work. This includes the realms of public health, harm reduction, policy and advocacy, social service and mutual aid provision, financial assistance, leadership development and mentorship, HIV prevention and care, and beyond. Please visit our [grantmaking page](#) to learn more about previously funded organizations and programs.

This Request for Proposals (RFP) is for one-year General Operating Grants. This funding opportunity has two (2) Focus Areas, **California Based Work** and **Supporting Communities Against Anti-TGNC Movements**.

### Eligibility

Organizations must meet the following three (3) eligibility requirements to be eligible to receive a General Operating Grant:

1. Be TGNC-led\* and provide services to TGNC people. Priority will be given to organizations led by and serving Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC). Have a 501(c)3 tax designation; for this particular request, organizations cannot be fiscally sponsored
2. Have a 501(c)3 tax designation or have a fiscal sponsor that has a 501(c)3 tax designation.
3. Align with the priorities and location for one Focus Area:
  - a. Have a component of organizational work that meaningfully aligns with the priorities of the Focus Area and,
  - b. The organization must be in a state that is eligible under that Focus Area.

**Organizations are only eligible for one Focus Area.** Review the eligibility criteria for each Focus Area and review the map, at the end of the RFP, to see prioritized states.

\*We adhere to the Trans Justice Funding Project definition of TGNC-led: the majority of people in charge of the organization identify as trans or gender non-conforming. If your group has a TGNC-related program that includes TGNC leadership, but the majority of your organization's leadership (director, staff, board, etc.) do not identify as TGNC, your group is not TGNC-led. Non-TGNC led organizations with a TGNC focused project are not eligible for this funding.

### Focus Area 1: California Based Work

#### Priorities

Significant strides have been taken in California to support TGNC communities. **TSC is seeking grassroots organizations to continue this impactful work in California.** We are seeking a diverse range of organizations, both geographically within the state as well as particular communities served.

#### Organizations must be in California

TSC received funding from the California Endowment to support work focusing on TGNC communities, specifically for organizations that are located in California. As a result, a Focus Area for this initiative was made available to California based organizations.

#### Grant Amounts

General Operating Grants will range from \$50,000 - \$75,000

### Focus Area 2: Supporting Communities Against Anti-TGNC Movements

#### Priorities

2022 had a record-breaking number of anti-TGNC attacks, ranging from bans on TGNC youth participation in sports to restrictions on gender-affirming medical care. **TSC is seeking grassroots organizations that are advancing TGNC rights, health, and wellness in areas where these attacks have taken places.** Some examples of these attacks may include anti-TGNC efforts to censor school curricula and enact discriminatory school policies, federal and local bills and laws that attack TGNC-communities, social service procedures and restrictions that attempt to ban transition-related care, etc.

#### Organizations must be in the United States

Organizations in all states and territories are welcome to apply for funding under Focus Area 2, except California-based organizations. Organizations must be prepared to speak to the impact of anti-TGNC movements and local community concerns in your application.

#### Grant Amounts

General Operating Grants will range from \$25,000 - \$75,000

**Organizations from the following states will be prioritized:** Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming



Transgender Strategy Center (TSC) is a multiracial transgender and gender non-conforming (TGNC)-led organization that bolsters organizations fighting for TGNC liberation through capacity building services and grantmaking. We nurture TGNC leadership to reach autonomy; support TGNC people in expressing their voices and heal from trauma; fund and advocate for direct resourcing of TGNC communities; sustain a community of TGNC peers; and educate cisgender people in meaningful allyship.

TSC is committed to building TGNC power and sustainability. Our mission prioritizes providing support, training, and coaching to grassroots TGNC-led organizations throughout the United States. We believe genuine TGNC liberation only comes through the leadership of TGNC communities.

### No-Cost Capacity Building

TSC provides grassroots, TGNC-led organizations with a wide range of capacity building topic areas, from program expansion to executive leadership training. As part of the funding under this initiative, TSC would like to provide capacity building assistance to those funded organizations at no cost to the grantee. See [TSC's website](#) for more information.

### Use of Funds

These grant funds will be distributed to grantees in the form of general operating support. General operating support grant funds may be used for any activities or expenses, as long as the expenditures are for charitable purposes, do not violate any laws or IRS guidelines, and do not jeopardize the nonprofit status of the organization.

State priority for this initiative is based on those receiving the most severe anti-TGNC legislation in the United States as of March 1, 2023. TSC recognizes that work for TGNC equity and liberation is necessary in all parts of the country, but for this initiative, TSC is prioritizing states that have faced acute and impending attacks in the last calendar year, such as attempts to ban gender-affirming care, discrimination against TGNC youth in schools, and bans on educational material on gender identity.

## Application Process

Eligible organizations can apply to this RFP by submitting a **Funding Request**. Details on how to complete a Funding Request are below.

There are two (2) stages to apply for a General Operating Grant:

1

Eligible organizations will need to complete a **Funding Request** using TSC's Grant Application portal, Good Grants. You can find more information on TSC's website about how to register and access Good Grants.

**All Funding Requests must be completed by March 31, 2023.** Applicants that are eligible to submit a Full Application will be notified by April 17th, 2023.

2

Following the submission of a Funding Request, a review committee will recommend a subset of applicants to invite to submit a Full Application.

A Full Application requires applicants to submit organization documents and respond to a set of questions and prompts. Responses can be submitted in written format in the grants portal or by scheduling and completing an Interview with TSC staff over Zoom.

## Funding Request Process

Once an organization has self-determined their eligibility for a Focus Area, applicants will need to complete a Funding Request, using TSC's Grant Application portal, Good Grants.

There are two Funding Request applications, one for each Focus Area – applicants can only apply to one Focus Area.

Applicants must fill out the following tabs: **Intake form, Questions & Prompts**, and the **Representation Table**.

### Intake form

Applicants will be required to respond with the following organizational information:

- Organization Name and EIN
  - If fiscally sponsored, include the fiscal sponsor's name and EIN
- Executive Director Name and Email
- Location; City and State
- Organization Mission Statement
- Organization's current fiscal year's budget amount
  - If your organization has a fiscal sponsor, do not provide the fiscal sponsor's budget, please use the applicant organization's budget
- Organizations Website or social media page

### Questions & Prompts

Applicants must respond to four (4) questions and prompts, provided in the "Questions & Prompts" section.

### Representation Table

Applicants will fill out a table in Good Grants. Please review the template on the TSC website in order to prepare the relevant demographic information.

## Completing a Funding Request

The information below is provided to assist you in completing a Funding Request:

- To start a Funding Request, register for Good Grants here: <https://tsc.grantplatform.com>
- It is strongly encouraged that you complete the application questions and prompts in a separate document and then paste your responses into Good Grants.
- Be sure to review the questions and prompts below along with the description of what is expected for each to ensure the best responses possible.
- This application includes the submission of a completed Staff and Board Representation Table. The purpose of collecting this data is to ensure that the leadership and staffing of, and the communities served by, the applicant organization align with the communities of priority for this initiative. This table is required for all applicants.

## Review

Information about the process for accepting and reviewing a Funding Request is briefly outlined below.

- The number of questions was intentionally limited and only gathers the most relevant information needed for the reviewers to make informed recommendations to ensure that the Funding Request should take no more than 2-3 hours to complete.
- Responses will be used to determine how well the applicant organization aligns with the goals and focus of this particular RFP of the Transgender Strategy Fund.
- After the deadline for submitting a Funding Request, a grant review committee composed of TGNC people with professional and lived experience in working with TGNC communities will review Funding Requests and make recommendations on who to invite to submit Full Applications.

Please refrain from reaching out to TSC about funding decisions.

If you have question about your eligibility, need assistance registering for Good Grants, or have questions about the process or completing an application, please email TSC at [grantmaking@transgenderstrategy.org](mailto:grantmaking@transgenderstrategy.org)

## Funding Request Questions & Prompts

The questions and prompts are provided below along with a description of what makes a strong response. We encourage applicants to keep responses concise; additional opportunities to expand on these questions will be given to those who are asked to submit a Full Application.

### 1 How are TGNC people involved in decision-making at the organization?

A key component of this funding is to support the strengthening of leadership of TGNC people. The Transgender Strategy Fund prioritizes supporting the needs of BIPOC TGNC communities, a strong response includes a description of the types of decisions that TGNC people at the applicant organization are making and will include other demographic details such as how BIPOC TGNC community members are engaged in program development and leadership. Questions to consider: Are TGNC staff, volunteers and/or community members, responsible for creating—not just implementing—programs at the applicant organization? Are TGNC staff making decisions that have budgetary implications?

*300 words*

### 2 Please describe the TGNC communities your organization serves, particularly BIPOC community members. Share demographic data of the people your organization serves.

A key component of this funding is to support TGNC communities in the US. A strong response will include the demographics of the people served by your organization; please use data and statistics when available. For instance, does your organization primarily serve BIPOC and TGNC sex workers? Families? TGNC youth? The following questions will provide the opportunity for you to speak about the needs and challenges faced by this community of TGNC people.

*200 words*

### 3 Please share the main services or activities of your organization.

A strong response will provide details about the main programs or primary advocacy activities of the organization and how they align with the priorities of the Focus Area you are applying under. Read below:

- **California Based Work** – applicants under this Focus Area should share details and data on the organization's statewide or local programs and activities that are supporting TGNC communities in the state of California
- **Supporting Communities Against Anti-TGNC Movements** – applicants under this Focus Area should share details and data on the organization's programs and activities that are advancing TGNC rights, health, and wellness with relation to anti TGNC movements in your area

*300 words*

### 4 Please describe the main area(s) of need for TGNC people in your community.

A strong response will include data and detail the needs of TGNC people specific to your state, region, or locale. Please provide a brief overview, applicants will be able to expand on this answer in the full application. Read below:

- **California Based Work** – applicants under this Focus Areas should speak to the needs of the TGNC communities that their organization supports in California
- **Supporting Communities Against Anti-TGNC Movements** - applicants under this Focus Area should describe the anti-TGNC movements and local attacks in your state and how they are impacting your community and work

*300 words*

## Timeline for General Operating Grants

The timeline below outlines the important dates for the Funding Request and Full Application stages.

### Funding Request stage:

March 14 - March 31, 2023

### RFP Released; General Operating Grants

#### Funding Request:

March 14

#### Informational Webinar for Applicants:

March 22

#### Funding Request Due:

March 31

The following dates are for organizations who are invited to submit a Full Application

### Full Application stage:

April 17 - May 12, 2023

#### Applicants Notified on Full Application:

April 17

#### Applicants can submit a written application:

April 17 - May 12

#### Applicants can complete an interview:

April 24 - May 12

*Interviews must be scheduled by April 24*

#### Full Application Due:

May 12

#### Notified of Decisions:

June 2023

#### Grant Period:

June 2023 - June 2024

*Information on completing a Full Application, including details on the process, tips for preparing and the questions and prompts for the application, will be available on TSC website in late March.*

# General Operating Grants Priority States



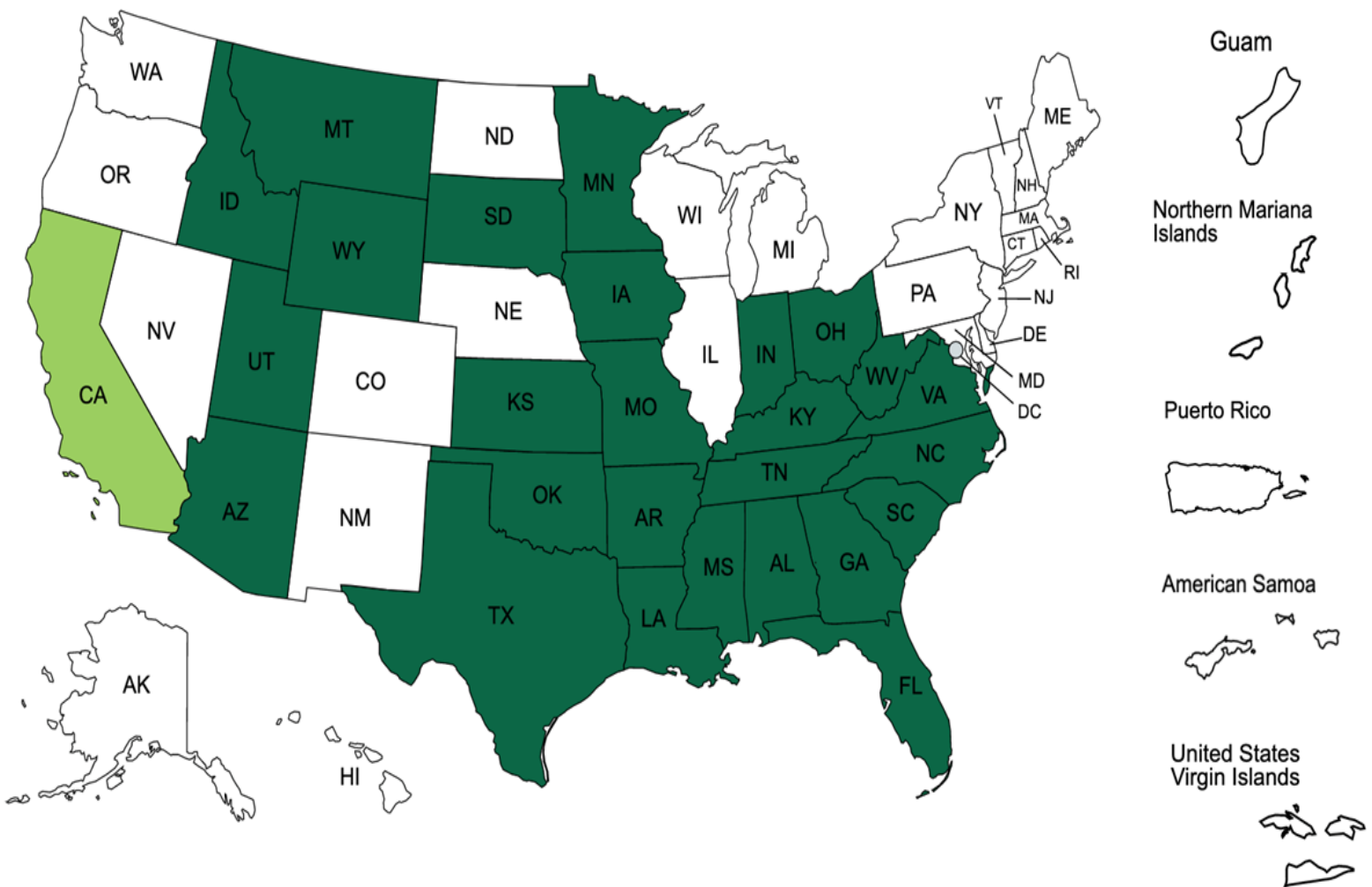
**Focus Area 1:** California-Based Work



**Focus Area 2:** Priority States for Supporting Community Against Anti-TGNC Movements



**Focus Area 2:** Non-Priority States for Supporting Community Against Anti-TGNC Movements



TSC received funds from the California Endowment to support work focusing on TGNC communities, specifically for organizations in California. As a result, Focus Area 1 for this initiative was made available to California based organizations. Organizations in all states and territories are welcome to apply for funding under Focus Area 2, except California-based organizations. Organizations must be prepared to speak to the impact of anti-TGNC movements and local community concerns in your application.