What is the Fund for Trans Generations?

Borealis Philanthropy’s Fund for Trans Generations (FTG) invests in trans-led organizing to support a future where transgender, gender non-conforming, and nonbinary people live with freedom, safety, and self-determination. FTG works to prioritize the needs of trans-led organizations that are grossly underfunded, and create opportunities to access financial resources for their communities. Since 2016, FTG has supported over more than 100 grantees with over $6.7 million in funding.

What are the values of FTG?

The Fund for Trans Generations is rooted in the following values:

→ Moving beyond equality to justice;
→ An intersectional feminism grounded in queer, trans, and gender nonconforming communities of color;
→ A commitment to addressing the root causes of transphobia, misogyny, racism, classism, and homophobia;
→ A focus on the resilience of trans communities and leaders of the trans movement; and
→ A commitment to solidarity, collaboration and transparency.
What funding opportunities are currently available?

As an intermediary, the Fund for Trans Generations (FTG) is continuously fundraising from other foundations to redistribute to groups via general support, rapid response, and COVID-19 specific grants. At this time, FTG has two funding opportunities available: rapid response and COVID-19 specific grants to trans-led organizations. Our general support funding has a closed process as we are still raising funds to be able to bring on new groups.

Can you tell me more about the Rapid Response Fund?

As we have witnessed recently and historically, the conditions of trans communities can change rapidly due to increased visibility and transphobic attacks by individuals and institutions. Organizations and communities often need additional resources to respond quickly to organized opposition and to unanticipated events. The FTG rapid response fund will provide support for situations that require immediate response and for proactive activities that pursue strategic opportunities.

What are some examples of the work being funded by the Rapid Response Fund?

We will prioritize supporting organizations and fiscally sponsored projects based in trans communities that are facing high levels of harm and who have limited access to foundation support. Request examples may include the following:

→ Communications, advocacy, and organizing trainings to defeat anti-trans legislation
→ Direct actions that confront transphobic legislation, attempts to dismantle trans protections, or other activities aimed at harming trans communities.
→ Travel support for a timely trans convening or training opportunity
→ A new project or network that is doing proactive movement-building work and needs support to lay the groundwork for this

Rapid response funding will not support the following requests:

→ Capital projects
→ Scholarships
→ Projects/organizations that focus solely on providing emotional or social support/engagement
→ Cash flow challenges
Can you tell me more about the COVID-19 Response Fund?

In partnership with other trans funders, FTG launched a COVID-19 Response Fund to get necessary resources out to trans communities in April 2020. We recognized that this pandemic would disproportionately impact Black, Indigenous, and other people of color (BIPOC), sick and disabled communities, elderly folks, migrants, sexual assault survivors, sex workers, and folks with low-income, and those living at the intersections. This fund supports and prioritizes trans-led organizations with a strong racial justice focus across the U.S. with particular consideration for those who lack access to national and/or local funding streams responding to the needs of trans communities impacted by the coronavirus.

What are some examples of the work being funded by the COVID-19 Response Fund?

Some examples of activities that may be supported by our grantmaking include, but are not limited to:

- Mutual aid and care support networks
- Healing and virtual wellness spaces
- Online/virtual programming needs
- Living stipends for members and/or staff
- Survival needs i.e. food, rent support, shelter, utilities
- Organizing and advocacy
Criteria and Eligibility

Organization or project must be trans-led. We adhere to the Trans Justice Funding Project definition, which holds that the majority of the people in charge of the group identify as trans or gender non-conforming. “In charge” includes any of the following examples:

→ The director, if there is one, should identify as trans or gender non-conforming.
→ The majority of any staff members should identify as trans or gender non-conforming.
→ The majority of the governing board collective, advisory committee, or similar governing body, if there is such a body, should identify as trans or gender non-conforming.
→ If the organization or project is volunteer-run, the majority of volunteers should identify as trans or gender non-conforming.

Budget Criteria & Timelines

RAPID RESPONSE BUDGET CRITERIA

→ Project budget should not exceed $600,000; we have no minimum budget requirements. A project based at an organization with a budget larger than $600,000 may apply as long as it is trans-led.
→ Organizations or projects may apply for a rapid response grant at any time and may only receive one rapid response grant per every 12-month period. Grant amounts will not exceed $10,000 per organization with an average size grant being $3,000 to $5,000.

COVID-19 BUDGET CRITERIA

→ There is no minimum or maximum organization budget criteria.
→ Organizations or projects may apply for a COVID-19 response grant every six months, until there is funding available. Grant amounts will not exceed $10,000 per organization with an average size grant being $5,000 to $7,000.

→ We are only able to fund organizations with their own 501(c)3 status or fiscally sponsored projects based in the United States and US territories.
→ We accept requests on a rolling basis. Once your request is submitted you should hear back from our team in two to four weeks.

Where can I apply?

You may access the rapid response and COVID-19 response application here. Once in Salesforce, you will see the corresponding application names “FTG 2021 Rapid Response” and “Fund for Trans Generations COVID-19 TGNC Rapid Response Fund.” If you’re having issues with Salesforce please reach out to our grants management team at grants@borealisphilanthropy.org.

Still have questions?

We know grant writing, accessing a new portal, and/or navigating philanthropy can be overwhelming. If you have any other questions, reach out to us at FTG@borealisphilanthropy.org.