

Oakland Unite Community Healing Mini-Grants Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

WHO CAN APPLY? Small non-profit organizations (with annual budgets less than \$500,000) and individual community members can apply. Long-time Oakland residents living in neighborhoods most impacted by violence who are applying to do projects that directly benefit their neighborhoods will receive priority for funding. However, organizations or individuals with a project that will benefit the identified Oakland communities are encouraged to apply.

CAN WE APPLY FOR A PROJECT BENEFITING A NEIGHBORHOOD OUTSIDE OF THE NEIGHBORHOODS OF FOCUS ON THE MAP? Oakland Unite implements violence intervention programs for the City of Oakland. We are required to focus our efforts on neighborhoods where violence occurs most frequently. In alignment with the City of Oakland's Vision for Racial Equity, only projects benefiting the designated neighborhoods of focus will be funded.

WHY ARE THERE DIFFERENT ORGANIZATIONS IDENTIFIED ON THE MAP IN THE APPLICATION? Oakland Unite is partnering with five community organizations to provide Community Healing support in Oakland -- Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth (RJOY), Urban Peace Movement (UPM), Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice (CURYJ), Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency (BOSS), and Roots Community Health Center. Each organization has funds set aside to re-grant as Community Healing Mini-Grants to support innovative, resident-led and community-based violence reduction projects.

DO I NEED TO IDENTIFY A SPECIFIC REGION OR ORGANIZATION FOR MY PROJECT ON THE APPLICATION? No. Instead be sure to indicate what neighborhood(s) your project seeks to provide community healing activities or events for. Oakland Unite staff will sort, assign and distribute all of the applications received to the right organization for review.

HOW DOES OAKLAND UNITE DECIDE WHO GETS FUNDED? Mini-Grant committees, comprised of Oakland community members identified by each of the Community Healing organizations, will spend time reviewing applications and scoring projects. Projects that demonstrate the following will be prioritized:

- *PROMOTE SAFETY AND HEALING:* All projects must promote safety and healing in Oakland to change norms around violence and the stigma around seeking support and healing
- *CENTERS MOST-IMPACTED:* Projects led by those most impacted by gun violence and/or other types of violence in Oakland will be given priority
- *ENCOURAGE COMMUNITY BUILDING AND COLLECTIVE HEALING:* Projects that promote community empowerment, invest in leadership opportunities for people at the center of violence and uplift homegrown, cultural healing practices
- *STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS:* Projects that offer collaborative opportunities for neighborhood residents to come together to improve healing and well-being in their neighborhoods
- *DEMONSTRATE BENEFICIAL IMPACT:* Projects should demonstrate direct, achievable benefits that have a positive community impact



CAN YOU APPLY FOR MINI-GRANTS MULTIPLE TIMES IN THE SAME FISCAL YEAR? If you are awarded a grant in the first cycle then you need to wait until the next fiscal year to apply again. The City of Oakland's fiscal year is from July 1 to June 30. If you are successful, you will be notified when you can apply again. If your project is not funded initially, we encourage projects to apply again and reach out to oaklandunite@oaklandca.gov if you would like assistance in shaping your application. We love to see how projects evolve from year to year based on what you learn, and would encourage you to highlight that.

IF AN ORGANIZATION IS SEEKING AN OUTSIDE FISCAL SPONSOR, CAN THEY USE MINI-GRANT FUNDS TO PAY A FISCAL SPONSOR FEE? Fiscal sponsor fees would be money paid to the fiscally sponsoring organization or individual for managing your project's money. We recognize this is important, however we want to ensure that the majority of the money is in the hands of community members. Due to the small funding amounts offered, fiscal sponsor fees cannot exceed 10%. Indicate this fee in the Direct Costs section of your budget.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF AN ADULT ALLY? An adult ally is only needed for applications submitted by youth under the age of 18. The role of adult allies varies per project, but as a general rule of thumb, adult allies support youth in seeing their projects to completion. Adult allies should not be doing the bulk of the work, but we encourage them to assist with logistics like planning, buying materials, etc. and providing mentorship.

IF AWARDED, WHO WILL OUR FUNDING CHECK BE MADE OUT TO? The Community Healing partner in your region will make checks out directly to your small organization (registered 501 (c)3) or if you are applying as an Individual to the project's Fiscal Sponsor for the full amount. If you are an Individual in need of a Fiscal Sponsor, please contact oaklandunite@oaklandca.gov.

IN WHAT WAYS WILL MINI-GRANT PROJECTS BE SUPPORTED AFTER THEY GET FUNDED? After award notifications go out, each mini-grantee will be assigned a project supporter. This may be staff from the Community Healing organization or a member of the Mini-Grant selection committee. The project supporters will check in with you and can answer (or find out the answer to) any of your questions/concerns. At the beginning of your project, staff from the Community Healing organization you are assigned to will conduct a check-in to provide any necessary project guidance and to determine how they can best support your project and assigned project supporter.

WHAT KIND OF REPORT OR EVALUATION IS REQUIRED? Each project is unique and what information must be collected and shared will be determined based on your project goals and activities. At the end of the project, your project supporter will facilitate an exit interview where they collect a brief final report that includes the identified required information and provide feedback about your project. In addition, all mini-grantees will attend an end of year event in June 2020 to report out to the broader Oakland community about how your project helped to make Oakland safer and healthier.

ANY QUESTIONS? Email OaklandUnite@oaklandca.gov or check the website at oaklandunite.org.

