

## MISSION

The New York Foundation is a steadfast supporter of community organizing and advocacy in New York City. We believe that the resilience and vitality of its neighborhoods is the city's greatest resource. Our grants support community-initiated solutions to solve local problems, constituents mobilizing for adequate and equitable resources, and groups organizing a collective voice among those whose voices have not been heard.

## HOW TO APPLY

A simple first step is to send us a letter of inquiry outlining your project and your budget needs. We can often make a quick determination as to whether or not the request fits our guidelines based on a letter rather than a full proposal. We will ask you for additional information if the request is unclear.

If you are preparing a proposal, please use the New York Area Common Application Form. It can be downloaded at [www.nyf.org](http://www.nyf.org). If you are following another format, please limit your submission to five pages.

Whether you send us a letter of inquiry, or a proposal, three Foundation program staff will review each request. We receive numerous requests for each cycle, so our staff cannot evaluate each proposed project in person or over the telephone; that is why we will always ask that you put your inquiry in writing. Once the deadline has passed and all pending requests have been read, program staff will meet personally with the strongest applicants to evaluate the proposed projects and will visit the program sites before making recommendations to the Board.

We will not accept proposals by fax or e-mail.

All grants are made by the Board of Trustees, which meets three times a year: in February, June, and October.

Requests for funding must be received by:  
November 1 for the February meeting  
March 1 for the June meeting  
July 1 for the October meeting\*

\*When any of these dates falls on a weekend, the due date is the Friday before the first of the month.

# ANNUAL REPORT



## NEW YORK FOUNDATION

10 East 34 Street, 10 Floor  
New York, NY 10016  
212.594.8009  
[www.nyf.org](http://www.nyf.org)

**NEW YORK  
FOUNDATION**

## WHO WE ARE

One of the first foundations in the United States, the New York Foundation was established in 1909 with a gift of \$1 million from Alfred M. Heinsheimer, part of a bequest he had received from his brother Louis. This first philanthropic gift was augmented by two additional gifts: one restricted broadly to the benefit of the young and the elderly; the second from the estate of Alfred M. Heinsheimer in 1929. Its founding documents list general philanthropic purposes, but its name has always signaled a special concern for New York City.

From the beginning the trustees argued that the role of philanthropy was to broaden awareness of social problems; not to limit grant making to direct charity. The early trustees were venture capitalists comfortable with a high degree of risk and made grants to organizations at their earliest stages.

To explore our grantmaking history and view examples of grants by issue area and decade, visit the New York Foundation's website at [www.nyf.org](http://www.nyf.org).

For more than 100 years, we have supported efforts that address a wide diversity of issues, but all grantees share a commitment to inspire New Yorkers to become more informed, active participants in the life of the city. Today our grant program encompasses both start-up grants to emerging groups—particularly those with few other sources of financial support—and longer-term institutional support. The Foundation influenced many changes in the philanthropic field during its history, primarily around making foundations' processes more transparent and accessible. The Foundation also has created programs to help newer organizations build their capacity to thrive.

## WHAT WE LOOK FOR

The Foundation places a priority on supporting community organizing and advocacy strategies. While we make grants to groups that utilize multiple strategies, including direct service, preference is given to those moving toward incorporating advocacy and organizing.

All organizations that apply for a grant, regardless of the strategy they utilize or the issue they address, must:

- Involve New York City or a particular neighborhood of the city;
- Address a critical or emerging need, particularly involving youth or the elderly; and
- Articulate how a grant from the Foundation would advance their work.

We define community organizing as bringing people together to identify issues and take joint action to bring about change. Drawing on a broad constituency that shapes and guides their agenda, community organizing groups develop and train leaders, work to promote accountability, and bring about both personal transformation and systemic change.

We define advocacy as a strategy that raises or rallies public attention or action, in order to bring issues into the realm of public concern and effect policy change. Advocacy may be carried out by those directly affected or by others working on behalf of a constituency.

## HOW WE SUPPORT OUR GRANTEES

Most grants fall into the following categories:

- Start-up grants to new, untested organizations;
- Grants to organizations for new projects that have a high probability of receiving future support or that anticipate operating for only a limited time period;
- General institutional support, usually for relatively new projects or for organizations in transition.

Start-up organizations are eligible for five consecutive years of support; other categories are eligible for up to three years. Grants are made for one year at a time, and grantees must reapply annually. Grants generally range from \$40,000 to \$45,000 for each year of a grant.

Once a grant is approved, grantees have access to the Foundation's extensive capacity-building program, which offers grantees both one-on-one consultation with experienced providers of nonprofit management assistance and trainings throughout the year. Our capacity-building partners include: Community Resource Exchange, Lawyers Alliance for New York, Center for Neighborhood Leadership, and Social Justice Leadership.

In addition, grantees can request small supplementary grants for technical assistance, leadership development, and to expand their capacity to engage in community organizing.

The Foundation also operates a summer internship in community organizing, which supports ten-week placements for young people who want to explore the field of community organizing.



## 2014 Grants

### **African Communities Together**

\$40,000 to connect African immigrants living in New York to services leadership training, and to develop advocacy and organizing campaigns for systemic change.

### **Arab American Association of New York**

\$40,000 for a civil engagement and leadership training program for Arab women enrolled in ELA (English as a second language) classes.

### **Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development**

\$30,000 to support strategic program of apprenticeships and additional training and resources that increase capacity of grassroots housing and advocacy organization across New York City.

### **Black Women's Blueprint**

\$40,000 to combine research and documentation to provide domestic violence victims with a public platform to hold perpetrators accountable.

### **Bridge Street Development Corporation**

\$40,000 for a multiservice organization addressing educational, health, and related issues in Central Brooklyn.

### **Brooklyn Food Coalition**

\$45,000 for a partnership that acts as an effective voice for those who live in or serve Brooklyn and seek a just and sustainable system for healthy and affordable food.

### **Brooklyn Movement Center**

\$45,000 to build a membership-led, direct-action, community-organizing group based in Bedford-Stuyvesant/Crown Heights.

### **CAAHV: Organizing Asian Communities**

\$40,000 to build grassroots power across Asian immigrant and refugee communities.

### **Center for Frontline Retail**

\$42,500 to build the power of New York City retail workers to improve wages and working conditions in the retail industry.

### **Child Welfare Organizing Project**

\$40,000 to expand its grassroots community organizing and public education activities.

### **Churches United for Fair Housing**

\$45,000 for a faith-based organization that advocates for affordable housing in North Brooklyn.

### **Coalition for Health Access to Reach Greater Equity**

\$42,500 for a campaign to expand health-care access for New York City's low-income, immigrant Asian Pacific Islander community.

### **Coalition of Culturally and Linguistically Specific Organizations in Support of Education**

\$42,500 to enhance the culturally and linguistically relevant educational and youth-development services provided to immigrant students with little or no literacy.

### **College & Community Fellowship**

\$42,500 to reinstate New York State Tuition Assistance Program grant eligibility for incarcerated students and for its campaign to ban the use of criminal history screenings in the admission process.

### **Community Action for Safe Apartments**

\$40,000 for a tenant-led initiative seeking to end landlords' use of illegal rent overcharges, which threatens housing affordability.



## 2014 Grants

### **Community Connections for Youth**

\$45,000 to empower grassroots organizations to develop effective community-driven alternative-to-incarceration programs for youth in the juvenile justice system.

### **Community Development Project at the Urban Justice Center**

\$42,500 to strengthen the research and policy capacity of community organizing groups throughout New York City.

### **Community Food Advocates**

\$25,000 to support parent and student engagement in the Lunch 4 Learning Campaign for city-wide universal free and healthy school meals for all New York City public school students.

### **Community Resource Exchange**

\$80,000 to provide individual technical assistance to New York Foundation grantees.

### **Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation**

\$42,500 to organize local residents to address community concerns in Cypress Hills, Brooklyn.

### **Damayan Migrant Workers Association**

\$40,000 to sustain and expand a campaign to protect the rights of low-wage workers, particularly Filipino domestic workers.

### **Dignity in Schools Campaign-NY**

\$40,000 for a coalition of youth, parents, educators, and advocates working to end harsh disciplinary policies in New York City's schools.

### **El Centro del Inmigrante**

\$21,250 to advance immigrant rights and expand immigrant civic participation in Staten Island.

### **Faith in New York**

\$40,000 for an economic justice campaign to create job opportunities for immigrants.

### **Families United for Racial and Economic Equality**

\$42,500 for its participatory budget outreach and advocacy, public housing reform efforts and merger with Fifth Avenue Committee.

### **Flatbush Development Corporation**

\$42,500 for the Flatbush Tenant Coalition, a tenant-organizing initiative in Flatbush, East Flatbush, and South Crown Heights, Brooklyn.

### **Flushing Workers Center**

\$45,000 for a workers' center, led by immigrant low-wage workers.

### **Good Old Lower East Side**

\$40,000 to build the organization's capacity to address the changing needs of Lower East Side residents.

### **Justice Will Be Served! Campaign**

\$42,500 for the Sweatshop Free Upper West Side, a coalition of workers, residents, students, faith-based groups, and elected officials that pushes for enforcement of labor laws, raises public awareness, and provides a model for organizing.

### **Laundry Workers Center**

\$40,000 to empower low-income, minority, and immigrant communities through transformative organizing, education, civic participation, and policy advocacy initiatives.

### **Lawyers Alliance for New York**

\$30,000 to provide pro bono counsel and other direct services to members of the nonprofit community.



## 2014 Grants

### **LGBT Faith Leaders of African Descent**

\$45,000 to challenge negative values, hate speech, and hostility that Black LGBT people face in the faith community.

### **MASA-MexEd**

\$42,500 to promote access to higher education for students of Mexican descent living in New York City, and to promote civic engagement among parents and the larger Mexican community around issues of education.

### **Mekong**

\$42,500 to provide community organizing, healing, education, arts, culture, language services, and improved access to social services to the Southeast Asian community.

### **Metropolitan Council on Housing**

\$40,000 to train tenant counselors, organize tenant associations, and involve more tenants in the citywide movement for expanded tenants' rights.

### **MinKwon Center for Community Action**

\$40,000 to build the organization's capacity to organize low-income Korean American immigrants, tenants, and workers in Flushing, Queens.

### **New Economy Project**

\$40,000 to support the New York City Community Land Initiative activities to develop and create affordable housing solutions.

### **New Immigrant Community Empowerment**

\$45,000 to support a campaign to create lasting sources of municipal support for day laborer centers.

### **New York Immigration Coalition**

\$30,000 to strengthen member groups' ability to plan and win advocacy campaigns, organize constituents, empower a new generation of leaders, and become stable institutions in New York's growing immigrant communities.

### **New York Lawyers for the Public Interest**

\$42,500 to ensure that New York City public schools are free of highly toxic polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

### **New Yorkers for Health and Safety**

\$42,500 to reduce the number of people illegally searched, falsely charged, and then arrested for marijuana possession in New York City.

### **Participatory Budgeting Project**

\$40,000 to support the expansion of participatory budgeting in New York City to more than 20 city council districts.

### **Picture the Homeless**

\$40,000 to catalyze a grassroots community-based planning and organizing process that will propose sustainable, permanent affordable housing for the extremely poor.

### **Real Affordability for All Coalition**

\$40,000 to organize to achieve major reform of subsidy programs while also transforming the city's housing agencies to meet the long-term needs of very low-income families.

### **Real Increase, Secured Earnings Project**

\$40,000 for a collaborative project to strengthen labor-law enforcement for low-wage workers.

### **Red Umbrella Project**

\$40,000 to mentor and support people in the sex trades to develop and lead community organizing projects on health and violence.



## 2014 Grants

### **Resilience Advocacy Project**

\$45,000 to develop a community-based peer advocacy infrastructure aimed at empowering low-income youth to access the educational, economic, and health resources they need to move out of poverty.

### **Riders Alliance**

\$40,000 to organize transit riders, with an emphasis on the communities of Bedford-Stuyvesant and Crown Heights in Brooklyn and Sunnyside/Long Island City in Queens.

### **Rockaway Youth Task Force**

\$40,000 to create a community of civically engaged youth in the Rockaways.

### **Southern Bronx River Watershed Alliance**

\$40,000 to advocate for a plan that addresses the health, safety and economic impacts of poor transportation planning and environmental racism in the South Bronx.

### **Street Vendor Project**

\$40,000 to support its advocacy work on behalf of street vendors.

### **Streetwise and Safe**

\$42,500 to build and share leadership skills among LGBTQ youth of color who experience gender- and sexuality-specific forms of criminalization based on race and poverty.

### **Urban Youth Collaborative**

\$40,000 to support a campaign to ensure students have access to college.

### **VOCAL-NY**

\$40,000 to ensure that people living with and who are at risk for hepatitis C have access to testing, care, treatment, and prevention.

### **Worker's Justice Project**

\$40,000 for the Women's Economic Justice Initiative, a campaign to organize women day laborers in Williamsburg, Brooklyn.