

**LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER & STRAIGHT ALLIANCE FUND**  
Guidelines and Instructions: Queer Youth Initiative

**Who We Are:**

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Straight (LGBT-Straight) Alliance Fund is a special project of the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona (CFSA). It was formed through an alliance with the National Lesbian and Gay Community Funding Partnership. Established in 1993, the Partnership was founded to impact the chronic pattern of under-funding of programs that benefit the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender community and to support efforts to address these issues within the field of philanthropy.

In 1999, the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona was awarded a two-year, \$100,000 *challenge grant* from the Partnership. The purpose of this project was to expand funding opportunities and resources for LGBT organizations in Tucson and Southern Arizona in collaboration with straight allies and friends. *The challenge was met.* In the years since 2000, the Alliance Fund has made more than 100 grants totaling \$448,000.

**The LGBT-Straight Alliance Fund's Mission is:**

*To develop and enhance resources to benefit the LGBT community in Southern Arizona through philanthropy, endowment building, and collaboration with straight allies and friends.*

**LGBT-Straight Alliance Fund Envisions:**

*A diverse and caring Southern Arizona community whose philanthropy meets the need of all of its members.*

**Grant Awards for Queer Youth Initiative: Funded by Funders for LGBTQ Issues and the LGBT&S Alliance Fund: Grant Period is Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2012**

The Queer Youth Initiative of the Alliance Fund gives grants of \$500 – \$4000. Funds are furnished from a grant provided by the Funders for LGBTQ Issues and by gifts from caring individuals in Southern Arizona who wish to include the LGBTQ community in their philanthropy. These grants may be supplemented by the Alliance Fund when a compelling case is made in the application.

*The Queer Youth Initiative accepts funding applications for projects that target or serve LGBTQ youth, in particular youth of color, young women, transgender and gender non-conforming youth, low-income youth, and projects serving youth living in rural areas.*

We seek to fund a diversity of organizations, populations, programs and geographic areas. We highly encourage applications from (or that benefit) rural areas.

## **Funding Restrictions**

The Alliance Fund will not provide grants for:

- Individuals
- Campaigns to elect public officials or influence legislation/lobbying
- Capital fund drives
- Debt reduction
- Endowments
- Fundraising events
- Scholarships, fellowships and tuition reimbursement
- Programs or projects inconsistent with federal, state and local non-discrimination statutes regarding equal employment opportunities
- Projects that promote religious activities (although faith-based organizations are eligible to apply for non-religious activities)
- Programs outside of Southern Arizona
- Research projects with no direct or relatively-immediate impact on programs or people
- HIV/AIDS direct treatment programs (Contact the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona for information about Ryan White Title II funds for Pima, Graham, Greenlee, Cochise, and Santa Cruz Counties at 520-770-0800).
- The Alliance Fund *will consider projects* that involve HIV/AIDS prevention and those that provide services to persons with HIV/AIDS that are not considered primary treatment programs.

Organizations are not required to have IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit status. Grassroots organizations or groups that have come together for a program consistent with the interests of the LGBT-Straight Alliance Fund are eligible to apply. To be considered for funding, groups without tax-exempt status must have a governing/advisory board that consists of five or more people and have a clear statement of purpose and decision-making process.

## **Areas of Interest**

The Queer Youth Initiative of the LGBT-Straight Alliance Fund will make grants that respond to this general framework:

We seek to serve or address the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) youth and involve youth in decision-making. The youth initiative seeks projects that create equity, enhance the well being of LGBTQ communities, and advance racial, economic and gender justice. We give special attention to organizations and proposals that involve youth in governance and decision-making. We give special attention to efforts that target or serve LGBTQ youth of color, young women, transgender and gender non-conforming youth, low-income youth, and projects serving youth living in rural areas. We seek projects that work for systemic social change and demonstrate an understanding of the interconnections of issues like race and sexual orientation and income level etc.

Applications that request general support, project-specific support, or seed funding for start-up projects will all be considered.

In general, the Queer Youth Initiative seeks projects that make the lives of young LGBTQ persons better. Ideas and programs that make life safer and saner and promote self-esteem, and/or which

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promote communication of LGBTQ young people with peers, counselors, and mentors—“someone who cares about me”-- are welcome. *Special attention will also be paid to projects that envision collaborative efforts, or related proposals that show collaboration. Although difficult to accomplish, cooperative efforts that include LGBTQ youth in areas of Southern Arizona where they are or perceive themselves to be particularly isolated are encouraged.*

## PROPOSAL PROCESS

**Please submit an original of each item in the following order:**

- A completed Project Summary form and a completed Project Budget form.
- A completed Organizational Leadership Roster or similar listing.
- A copy of your **diversity statement or policy**.
- A narrative describing the proposed project for which you are requesting funds. This narrative should be a maximum of three (3) typed pages, minimum of 12-point type, white paper only. Please respond to the following statements/questions in this order and use the headings indicated.
  - A. **NEED:** Describe the need in the community for your project, including any collaborations you intend.
  - B. **IMPACT:** Tell us who will be impacted by your project. Be as specific as possible about the population(s) you are targeting.
  - C. **GOALS:** State *measurable* goals for the proposed project; discuss anticipated benefits for the participants/clients.
  - D. **PROJECT DESIGN:** Describe the project for which funding is requested. Include project activities, methods of outreach and participant recruitment, and staffing. Include the total number of people to be served.
  - E. **EVALUATION:** Describe how you will know if your project is successful (how you will measure outcomes).
  - F. **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY:** Describe your experience working with LGBT persons. Briefly list the qualifications/experience of key leadership staff that illustrate why they can be expected to succeed.
  - G. **SUSTAINABILITY:** If this project succeeds and continues to be needed, how will it be sustained and supported in the future?

*Label each of the headings “A-G” as shown above and provide the appropriate narrative text. This makes the application easier to read. You can determine how much space to use for each answer, **as long as the narrative does not exceed three pages.***

**Please provide one copy of the following:**

- Your IRS 501(c) (3) determination letter (if applicable).

***Please DO NOT:***

- \*fax or e-mail application packets*
- \*put proposals in binders or covers*
- \*include attachments that are not requested*
- \*submit videotapes or DVDs*

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### **Site Visit**

Every organization that meets the requirements and submits a completed application by September 23, 2011, will be rated for quality by a grant panel. Given funding limitations, proposals rated sufficiently high by the panel may receive a site visit to learn more about the project and funding request. If a site visit is desired, you will be notified as soon as your site visit is scheduled. If not, we will also inform you of that fact.

The *person who will manage the project* for which you are seeking support from the Alliance Fund *must attend the site visit*. At least one member of your governing/advisory board should also attend. Due to the logistics involved in making the arrangements, we will consult with you about date and time if you are to receive a site visit. Thank you in advance for accommodating the Alliance Fund in our attempt to be efficient and thorough.

### **Reporting Requirements**

Grantees must submit a 6-month progress report by email and a final (written) end-of-grant report. Format will be furnished.

### **Expectations for Acknowledgement of LGBT-Straight Alliance Fund Support**

Recipients of Alliance Fund grants agree to acknowledge support on their public project materials using the Alliance Fund logo and/or a statement such as “This project is supported in part by funds from the Queer Youth Initiative of the LGBT-Straight Alliance Fund, a special project of the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona and the Funders for LGBTQ Issues.” We also request that grantees include acknowledgement and the Alliance Fund logo on their website, with a link back to the Alliance Fund homepage. Logo/website packages will be sent to funded projects.

### **Application Process**

Completed application packets must be received by the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona no later than Sept. 23, 2011. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered for funding. Awards will be announced in late November and awards will be made in early January, 2012.

### **Address Proposals to:**

Queer Youth Initiative Grants Program Coordinator  
LGBT-Straight Alliance Fund  
Community Foundation for Southern Arizona  
2250 E. Broadway Blvd.  
Tucson, AZ 85719

### **Questions?**

Contact Doug Noffsinger, Alliance Fund Chairperson, at [douglas.noffsinger@comcast.net](mailto:douglas.noffsinger@comcast.net) .

Visit the Alliance Fund website ([www.alliancefund.org](http://www.alliancefund.org)) for grant information and other information on the Fund and our sponsors and allies.

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