North Star Fund Grants: How to Apply

**Hudson Valley and NYC Organizing Grants.** Are you a group **new** to North Star Fund, organizing in the Hudson Valley or NYC? *Deadline: March 15*

**Let Us Breathe Fund Grant.** Are you a group **new** to North Star Fund, organizing in NYC or the Hudson Valley, with a focus on Black-led organizing or police accountability? *Deadline: April 15*
About this Zoom Webinar

- This webinar will be recorded, and broadcast on Facebook Live
- Ask questions! Notify us via chat, and we will make sure to get to your questions.
North Star Fund Grants: How to Apply
Contact Us

You can reach out in English or Spanish

grants@northstarfund.org
tel: (646) 389-3252

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What We’ll Cover Today

1. Grant Criteria
   - About North Star Fund
   - We fund community organizing

2. Application Process
   - How to prepare your application
   - After you submit

3. Q&A (not recorded)
Who and what is North Star Fund?
North Star Fund is a social justice fund that supports grassroots organizing led by communities of color building power in the Hudson Valley and New York City.
We fund community organizing.

Community organizing is the process of bringing people together who have common problems to work collectively to find common solutions and build power to make real those developed solutions.

Power is the ability to do something.

In organizing, it is the ability to mobilize people and resources to gain influence to claim victories for the public interest.
We organize people from all backgrounds to mobilize resources towards social justice movements.

2019 Giving Project Participants
Community Organizing Criteria

For more details: northstarfund.org/apply/criteria
Led by the people most directly impacted by the issues the organization works on, and those members have clear decision-making power.

**Example:** An organization by and for homeless people, where homeless people are members and envision and lead campaigns.

**Not a fit:** An advocacy organization where staff and board craft policy recommendations on behalf of homeless people.

For more details: northstarfund.org/apply/criteria/
Brings people together and develops the **leadership capacity** of the people they work with.

**Example:** There are opportunities for new people to get involved and to take on decision making and important work for the organization.

**Not a fit:**
- No strategy to bring in new people
- New people can’t join
- A group with no clear strategy on how they will build their base

*For more details: [northstarfund.org/apply/criteria/](http://northstarfund.org/apply/criteria/)*
Works to identify, articulate and **address the root causes** of the problems they work on, not just the symptoms.

**Example:** Trying to alter unjust power relationships by increasing accountability for police violence.

**Not a fit:** Hosting a community meeting so that police officers and community members can get to know each other.

For more details: [https://northstarfund.org/apply/we-fund-community-organizing/](https://northstarfund.org/apply/we-fund-community-organizing/)
Creates systemic change through “campaigns,” a planned series of events or activities that alter unjust power relationships.

Example: Planning a series of protests, phone banks and/or events to pressure a key public official to change a policy.

Not a fit:
- Conducting a series of unrelated events that don’t lead to a larger goal
- Hosting one isolated event per year, with no further steps.

For more details: northstarfund.org/apply/criteria/
SIGN, VIEW, & SHARE

The Justice Roadmap is a comprehensive legislative agenda that moves New York away from reliance on local policing, ICE policing, prisons, and immigration detention centers, and toward opportunities and resources that offer people true health and safety. It is a roadmap for addressing the harms caused by the deeply entangled criminal legal and immigration systems. These systems operate through violent policy, structure, and culture to oppress and criminalize Black and brown people, families and communities.

Sign here to encourage your local legislators (link in bio):
https://actnow.io/wOlex8q
Has a **strong vision for social justice** and is committed to working towards a larger movement.

**Examples:**
- Desegregating all public schools in NYC to make education more equitable.

**Not a fit:**
- Mentoring, tutoring, and SAT support for students of color.

For more details: [northstarfund.org/apply/criteria/](http://northstarfund.org/apply/criteria/)
We are excited to announce our Mayoral Forum on Culturally Responsive Education on Feb 18th at 5pm

Please join us for this important conversation bit.ly/3jaDgvj

Spanish interpretation provided, other languages provided upon request
#Education4Liberation #BLMatSchool
Check out NorthStarFund.org for a complete list of groups we fund.
Other Criteria

- An annual budget under $800,000
- Work is based in the five boroughs of New York City or the Hudson Valley
- 501(c)(3) or fiscal sponsorship
- We can provide resources on how to find a fiscal sponsor

Grantee:
New Immigrant Community Empowerment (NICE)
What we don’t fund

Although we value the work, we do not consider:

Direct service organizations with no organizing strategy, i.e. soup kitchens
Grants to individuals, i.e. fellowships
Private or public schools, colleges, and universities
Hospitals and clinics
International organizations
Travel expenses for individual speakers or conference participants
Activities to elect specific candidates for public office
Fundraising events such as galas and walk-a-thons
Feasibility studies, capital fund drives
Organizations that do not comply with federal, state, or local equal opportunity statutes
How do I apply?

1. Gather information and documents.
2. Download proposal questions.
3. Write proposal narrative.
4. We also accept proposals written for other funders, provided it addresses our questions.
5. Begin your application online.
6. Upload your materials.
7. Submit!

Grantee: Movement for Justice in El Barrio
WHAT GRANTS ARE AVAILABLE?

We make different grants available at different times of year, and each grant has its own criteria and deadlines. Here are the currently available grants.

Let Us Breathe Grants
Grants to support Black-led organizing for community safety, economic investment, and racial justice in Black communities. There are two different deadlines for the newly expanded fund, depending on your grant status.

Hudson Valley Organizing Grants
Long-term funding to grassroots groups in the Hudson Valley of New York that are building power. Next deadline is March 15, 2021.

New York City Organizing Grants
General operating support to grassroots organizations that use organizing as a primary strategy in New York City. Next deadline is March 15, 2021.

Rapid Response Grants
To support organizing, activism, and strategic convening in response to urgent threats or breaking opportunities, especially during critical junctures of a campaign. Rolling deadline.
Grant Amounts

General Eligibility

NYC Organizing Grants Eligibility

Application Process

Frequently Asked Questions

How to Submit Your Application

Still have questions? Contact our Program Officer Catherine Eusebio at catherine@northstarfund.org or schedule a call at calendly.com/CatherineEusebio.

Ready to Start Your Application?
Welcome to North Star Fund's online application center. Please visit our website to review our guidelines and determine your eligibility to apply for a North Star Fund grant.

Due to the competitive nature of our grants, we highly recommend attending one of our How to Apply workshops or scheduling a phone conversation with our program officer prior to beginning your application.

See below for the list of grants for which we are currently accepting applications. Click on the name of the grant category to begin your application. You can save a draft and return to your application at any time.

Hudson Valley Grant Application: For New Applicants
Let Us Breathe Grant Application: For All Applicants
New York City Grant Application: For New Applicants
Primevera 2021 - Para Nuevos Solicitantes NYC y Hudson Valley
Rapid Response Grant
I’ve submitted my application. What’s next?

- You will get a notification that we received your application.
- You will hear from us between 2-3 months after you apply, because our Community Funding Committees have to come together to make a decision.
What is a Community Funding Committee?

- We give grants to grassroots organizations through a process that shifts decision-making power towards communities fighting for justice.
- We draw directly from the leadership of local grassroots organizations in order to find the decision-makers for our grants.
- This group of social justice leaders volunteer their time to read applications and collectively make decisions on our grantmaking.
- The committee’s role is two-fold: to draw on their collective experience to select the most promising grassroots organizations to receive grants and to provide perspective to shape our grantmaking programs as a whole to have the greatest strategic impact.
Deadlines

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Thank you for joining us!