Housing Stability Grants
Guidelines, Process & Scoring

The primary goal of the Housing Stability Grant program is to support organizing and advocacy aimed at pursuing structural reforms that increase housing stability* and prevent homelessness for people within the seven-county Twin Cities region.

We believe that housing stability is the condition in which everyone can obtain and stay in housing that is:

- reasonable within their total budget
- enough space to comfortably house their families
- in good condition
- able to be retained for the period that they need it
- in a community that uplifts them
- in the context of a balanced relationship between them and their landlords
- in a market that does not exhibit racial disparities

To advance our shared vision, the Alliance for Metropolitan Stability (the Alliance) is working with members of the Stable Housing is the Priority (SHIP) Collaborative and other partners to regrant money to community-based organizations that are working to achieve each of these realities.

We are seeking to fund organizations that are rooted in and working with the communities most impacted* by the legacy and current reality of housing inequity and with people who have lived experience with homelessness and/or housing insecurity.

We intend to fund organizations that have been successful in their work by utilizing relationships within the community as well as with policy-makers and implementers. We also hope to invest in some new ideas that groups want to try in order to achieve housing stability and systems change.*

See glossary of definitions for starred words on page 5

$300,000 total **funding available**	**maximum grant amount** **$40,000 per proposal**	**Funding from the** **Pohlad Foundation**

GOALS

This housing stability grant grows out of our individual and collective work in the Twin Cities region to center the voices and experiences of those most impacted by housing instability and/or homelessness in advancing the solutions needed. Our long term goal is systems transformation.

The Housing Stability Grant program goal is to support BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, or people of color), people with disabilities, people with lived experience of housing instability/homelessness, and low-wealth communities build power to shift and remove the housing stability barriers they have identified and move systems changes.

In addition, these grants should support their ability to advance their narratives and push key decision-makers and institutions, while identifying strategic opportunities to leverage their power for better community outcomes.

OBJECTIVES

Organizations that apply for funding must demonstrate that their analysis and leadership is deeply rooted in BIPOC communities including people with lived experience of homelessness and/or housing instability.

There are myriad changes needed to achieve stable housing for everyone in our region. We understand that in addition to racism, the factors driving our region's immense racial disparities and increasing housing instability and homelessness are deeply interconnected across issue silos (employment, education, income, child care costs, health care costs, etc.). However, for this project and these grants, we are focusing on the housing systems changes* needed.

Proposed projects should be connected to the implementation of one or more of the following eligible policy* and systems initiatives within a specific community(s) context. Projects include but are not limited to organizing, advocacy, and narrative change work around:

- **Homelessness response systems and secure equitable investments:** Advancing strategies that reduce cross-county barriers to services, expanding housing voucher acceptance, expanding investments in rental assistance and/or section 8, and changing the rules and eligibility criteria around public assistance programs such as Emergency Assistance, Emergency General Assistance, and housing vouchers.

- **Renters Rights and Power:** Addressing predatory and discriminatory rental practices, reform tenant screening processes, prevent evictions, and implement renter protections.

- **Anti-Displacement:** Advancing policies like rent control, eviction prevention, extending Section 8, securing deeply affordable housing development, and first right of purchase for tenants when rental buildings are sold.

INITIATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must:

- Be place-based by serving a community or constituency in the seven-county Twin Cities region

- Organize constituencies around one or more specific policy and systems change opportunities as detailed on page one and two

- Center the views, experiences, and perspectives of underrepresented communities in housing stability work

- Support underrepresented constituencies in impacting decision-making structures

- If the funding application includes a partnership across community organizations, clearly define the collaboration and the respective roles of the partners

ELIGIBILITY

Community organization(s) applying for a Housing Stability Grants must be a registered 501c3 or have a partnering 501c3 or other fiscal agent. Proposed projects must demonstrate targeted implementation of one or more of these policy initiatives: homelessness response systems and secure equitable investments, renters rights and power; and anti-displacement.

Eligible organizations include nonprofit organizations such as neighborhood based organizations, cultural organizations, service organizations **who are representative of and/or led by people with lived experience of housing instability and/or homelessness, low-income communities, BIPOC, new immigrant communities, people with disabilities or other cultural communities**. Eligible organizations should be committed to engaging their communities in eligible policy and systems change* activities.

ALLOWABLE EXPENSES:

A successful application's plan and budget would include project-specific expenditures that engage underrepresented constituencies to advance community-based housing stability goals. Projects must involve people from underrepresented constituencies in decision-making and leadership.

Examples of eligible expenses:

- Personnel, including stipends and other compensation (travel/child care reimbursements etc.) of people with lived experience to engage in the work
- Subgrants to partner organizations whose work is detailed in the grant application
- Meeting costs (space, childcare, food, transport, rental of communication equipment)
- Communication tools including translation services
- Local travel expenses (bus, bicycle, gas)
- Community organizing, education and training

Examples of ineligible expenses:

- Capital purchases
- Support for electoral campaigns
- Projects that do not directly connect to the eligible list of policy initiatives

APPLICATION PROCESS:

1. Submit applications here (bit.ly/hsg-app-2023) by February 24th
2. Proposals will be reviewed by a committee of people who have a history of working towards housing stability in our region, the majority of whom will be BIPOC and/or have personal experience with housing instability or homelessness.
3. Grant awards are for one year.
4. Grant awards will typically range from $20,000 to $40,000. Approximately $300,000 in grants will be funded in total.

GRANTEE OBLIGATIONS:

Recipients of grants are required to attend an initial meeting to share with one another what they are working on in order to surface potential opportunities for collaboration/synergy.

Grantees must agree to spend funds consistent with their grant application. Grantees are also expected to attend a meeting at the end of the grant period. The goal will be to use that time to capture best practices, progress made, and lessons learned — all of which can then be elevated and shared across the region to inform future efforts. If grantees cannot attend that meeting, a written report should be submitted.

TIMELINE:

1. Send out guidelines broadly/call for applications: January 12th
2. Proposals due: February 24th
3. Funding decisions: March 27th
4. Grant awards announced: March 31st
5. Grantee meeting: April 11th

For more information, including the application, please visit
www.thealliancetc.org/ship-hsg

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact
info@thealliancetc.org

SCORING SHEET to be used by Review Committee

Threshold Criteria	Pass	Fail	Notes
Lead applicant must demonstrate a history of involvement in 1 or more of the eligible policy and systems change* initiatives.			
Proposal must be place-based, serving a community or constituency in a targeted geography within the Twin Cities' 7-county metro region			
Proposal must focus on engaging impacted constituencies* around eligible policy and systems change initiatives			
Proposal must focus on one of the 3 policy and system change areas of renters rights, anti-displacement, and/or homelessness prevention.			

Ranking Criteria	Points (0-5)	Notes
ENGAGEMENT: Engages underrepresented*, impacted* communities and/or people with lived experience with housing instability or homelessness.		
SPECIFICITY: Clearly outlines how the outreach, organizing or engagement activities will lead to desired outcomes.		
STRATEGIC: Stimulates new and innovative engagement/organizing practices and/or builds on proven strategies with demonstrated results.		
POWER SHIFTING: Builds and supports long-term involvement of underrepresented communities* to impact decision-making structures.		
LEVERAGING: Accesses other resources such as money, people, and learning opportunities.		
PROJECT DESIGN: Community members from underrepresented communities* are involved in choosing project goals and implementation plan		
EFFECTIVENESS: Project is logically connected to desired outcomes. Proposal is clear about how change will happen.		
LEADERSHIP: Decision-making within the organization is informed by underrepresented community* members and/or people with lived experience with housing instability or homelessness.		
EVALUATION: Clear explanation of the change expected as a result of this project		
REGIONAL IMPACT: Even if the project's initial geographic scope is limited, the policy/process that the proposal is aiming to change is one that has impacts on people throughout the Twin Cities region		

SCORING POINTS

0: Application did not address criteria, or section was skipped.

1: Application addressed criteria, but was unclear about how the project would achieve criteria.

2: Application addressed criteria, but provided minimum information.

3: Application addressed criteria with adequate information about their approach.

4: Application addressed criteria and provided good examples of future strategies.

5: Application addressed criteria and effectively explained how the project has already taken steps to address criteria.

*GLOSSARY

Underrepresented Communities:
For our purposes, underrepresented communities means: BIPOC communities and/or individuals with lived experience of housing instability,

Impacted Constituencies:
For our purposes, impacted communities means: BIPOC communities, individuals with lived experience of housing instability, and/or people at greatest risk of experiencing homelessness.

Systems Change:
For our purposes systems change means that systems that currently create harm or fail to serve people and communities are changed to better serve and support impacted communities. We believe this happens by shifting connections within systems and altering power relationships between systems and impacted people and communities.

Policy Change:
For our purposes, policy change means that organizations and coalitions are working to pass policies that work to better protect, serve, and/or reduce harm that current and past policies have done to underrepresented communities and impacted constituencies.

Housing Instability:
For our purposes, this includes experiencing homelessness and also encompasses a number of related challenges such as: having trouble paying rent, overcrowding, moving frequently, living in unsafe housing due to lack of alternatives, and/or spending the bulk of household income on housing.