

2025 LGBTQ+ Giving Circle

The **LGBTQ+ Giving Circle** will provide grants to Community Benefit Organizations (CBOs) working to raise visibility and address the needs of LGBTQ+ communities in Lancaster County.

Priority will be given to applications that consider the intersectionality of identities and that center the most vulnerable LGBTQ+ communities and those most affected by systemic injustices such as racism, homophobia, transphobia, and misogyny.

Grants range from **\$2,500 – \$25,000**.

Eligibility Requirements

Applicant organization must:

- Serve Lancaster County residents without discrimination.
- Have current 501(c)(3) designation from the IRS.
- Be registered with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Charitable Organizations unless otherwise exempt per the Institutions of Purely Public Charity Act.
- Complete IRS Form 990 annually.
- Have an annual audit or a financial review by an independent CPA within the last 12 months.
- Be in good standing with all existing awards and contracts with the Lancaster County Community Foundation.
- Provide organizational Non-Discrimination Policy meeting all federal requirements as it applies to your type of organization ([FAQs](#)).
- Be aware of the Community Foundation's [Anti-Hate Policy](#).

Visit the Community Foundation's website for additional information about eligibility: [Eligibility Requirements](#)

Application Process

1. Submit an application through the online grant portal at LancFound.org/grants by the final deadline of 11:59 pm on May 16.
2. The LGBTQ+ Giving Circle will review applications and announce grant awards on June 13.

Timeline

- **Wednesday, March 12** – Grant application portal opens.
- **Friday, May 16, 11:59 pm** – Final deadline to submit full application.
- **Friday, June 13** – Award notifications issued. Grant funding period begins.
- **June 13, 2025 – June 13, 2026** – Duration of grant funding period.
- **Friday, July 10, 2026** – Grant completion report due.

Application Questions

- **Project Narrative**
 - Describe the proposed project, the geographic area(s) of Lancaster County it will serve, and the distinct audiences to be served. (2,000 characters)
- **Funding**
 - Restate the amount you are seeking through this grant opportunity and describe any other funding sources and amounts you are exploring. If this application is not funded at the requested level, will you be able to implement aspects of the project as stated? (2,000 characters)
- **Budget**
 - Provide a detailed budget that lists each item or service, a description, and the portion of grant funds being dedicated to that piece. (2,000 characters)
- **Project Success**
 - Describe the goals for the success of the project and how that success will be measured and documented. How will you conduct program evaluation (collecting value statements, numbers served, surveys, measuring impact, or using other methods)? (2,000 characters)
- **Access & Inclusion**
 - The LGBTQ+ Giving Circle affirms the need for intersectional and equitable strategies in all of its funded projects. Describe how your project will consider its outreach to LGBTQ+ community members. How does the project directly bring visibility or provide services that affirm and support these communities? How is the project considering equity and intersectionality within the project? (2,000 characters)

Evaluation Criteria

The LGBTQ+ Giving Circle will use the following questions to evaluate and score applications:

- Is the project's connection to the LGBTQ+ Giving Circle's mission and priorities outlined in the grant proposal? (1-4 points)
- Is the project's focus on LGBTQ+ communities clearly specified and defined? (1-4 points)
- Does the project narrative provide a clear picture of all proposed actions and activities? (1-4 points)
- Are the project's dates and locations clearly addressed and anticipated? (1-4 points)
- Is the project's funding plan achievable? (1-4 points)
- Does the budget clearly define where awarded funds will be applied? (1-4 points)
- Does the project demonstrate how it will be intersectional, inclusive, and accessible to all audiences? (1-4 points)

Contact Information

For grant application questions:

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To contribute to the LGBTQ+ Giving Circle:

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To get involved or learn more:

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