

Equity Fund: Spring 2025

Berkshire Taconic Nonprofit Grants

Welcome

Rooted in Justice. Powered by Community. Guided by Trust & Shared Integrity.

Before You Begin Review the guidelines:

Does your project align with these Focus Areas:

- Racial and Social Justice
- Economic Empowerment
- Educational Equity
- Community Empowerment & Cultural Preservation
- Health Equity Leadership
- Development BIPOC Led or Centered
- Community-Driven Impact

To be eligible you must be physically located or applying to work within the Berkshire Taconic region which includes NW corner of Litchfield county (Salisbury, North Canaan, Canaan, Norfolk, Sharon, Cornwall, Goshen, Kent, Warren), Connecticut, NE corner of Dutchess County (Dover, Pine Plains, Millerton, Stamford, Amenia, Millbrook, Washington), NY, Berkshire County, MA, and Columbia County, NY.

All applications will be graded on ideas, not grant writing ability.

BIPOC means Black, Indigenous, or People of Color this includes but is not limited to African Americans, Native Americans, people from the African or Latin diaspora that identify as people of color.

We fund powerful, community-rooted projects led by those most impacted. This grant supports nonprofits, collectives, and individuals with bold visions for equity.

We believe in trust, transparency, and shared integrity—so while we keep things accessible, we also honor our responsibility to the community and to each other.

Need support?

Reach out. We're here to help you shine.

Timeline on Receiving Funds:

The committee meets on a monthly basis to review applications and make decisions. From there all recommended grants are still subject to Berkshire Taconic staff and board approval. Once approved it takes two weeks to receive a check. Please keep this timeframe in mind while applying.,

Application

Project Name*

Character Limit: 100

Project Main Contact*

Full Name, email and phone number

Character Limit: 500

Required Agreements*

Please check each box to show you understand and agree:

Choices

I will use the grant only for the project I describe here.

If my plans change, I will reach out to talk with the Equity Fund team.

I understand that misusing funds could mean returning the grant or not being eligible again.

I agree to share a short reflection or final report when the project ends.

Legal & Tax Info***Choices**

I am a 501c3 Non Profit

I have a fiscal sponsor and will upload a sponsor agreement.

I am applying as an individual for a charitable purpose and will upload a W9 form.

Note: At this time, we do not fund business startups or direct artist grants. Individuals may apply for community events that are free and open to the public, or for scholarships related to professional development or educational enrichment —this does not include tuition.)

Payments to an individual count as income and could affect your taxes.

Note: All applicants agree to follow state and federal laws, including those related to equity, non-discrimination, and fair use of funds.

When does your project begin and what is the expected end date?*

Character Limit: 250

Project Budget

Please upload or list your budget clearly. We want to understand how you'll use the grant.

Example Expenses:

- Stipends
- Supplies
- Space Rental
- Admin: administrative cost can be no more that 10% of your project budget

For applicants apply for general operating support, please upload a organizational budget

Expense	Estimated Dollar Amount

Budget Upload

File Size Limit: 10 MB

Tell Us About Your Project or Organization*

What is your project/organization about?

- What do you do or want to do and why does it matter?
- How will you know your project/organization made a difference?
 - List at least one clear sign or result you're aiming for.

- Who will benefit, and how will their lives or opportunities improve?
 - Be specific about impact on individuals or communities.
- What issue or need is your project/organization responding to?
- What will you do with the funding?
- Who is involved in planning or leading the project/organization?

Will be scored for clarity, purpose, and community alignment

Character Limit: 5000

What will change if your project/organization is successful?*

Share 1-2 specific outcomes or impacts you expect.

Will be scored for connection to goals and equity impact

Character Limit: 2000

Is your group BIPOC-led or at least 50% staffed with BIPOC who are also represented in leadership?*

Choices

Yes

No

What specific community or population are you serving?*

Example: Black LGBTQIA teens in Dutchess County

Character Limit: 1000

How did you connect with or listen to this group's needs?*

Character Limit: 2000

Do you have any collaborators or partners?*

List names, orgs, or describe how others are involved. If solo, explain how others still benefit.

Character Limit: 2000

Self Reflection*

- Our organization is best at..
- Without our work..
- What makes your project unique?

Character Limit: 2000

Prompt for Success Indicators*

Which of the following might show your project succeeded: Check all that apply.

Choices

More people showed up or participated than before
Participants gave positive feedback
We created or shared new knowledge or tools
We built new relationships or partnerships
Other

Other:

Character Limit: 2000

Checklist*

Choices

Project Budget (required)
W9 Form (if individual)
Fiscal Sponsor Agreement (if applicable)
Optional: Letters of support, images, plans, etc.

W9

For individual applicants.

File Size Limit: 5 MB

Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement

For projects using a fiscal sponsor.

File Size Limit: 5 MB

Supporting Documents

File Size Limit: 10 MB

Review Process and Sign Off

How Your Application Will Be Reviewed

The Leadership Advisory Committee will review your application based on:

- Clarity of your project and goals
- Connection to community needs
- Feasibility and thoughtful budgeting
- Equity impact and collaboration
- Alignment with BIPOC leadership and values

Were you recommended to apply?

If so by whom? or by social media, an event, etc.

This is for internal tracking purposes and has no bearing on your application and will not influence the committee

Character Limit: 250

Accountability & Follow-Up*

We believe in shared care and clarity.

If you receive funding, you agree to:

- Share a short reflection or report within 60 days of finishing Save proof of major costs (receipts, etc.) in case we need to follow up Be open to a quick check-in, if needed
- Attend our annual community convening in person or virtually and be prepared to share about your experience including successes and challenges.

You can submit your final reflection in writing, a short video, or a few photos with a note.

Choices

I understand and agree

Attestation*

I confirm that all information provided in this application is true to the best of my knowledge. If awarded, I agree to use the funds solely for the project described and understand that this application serves as a basic grant agreement. I will submit a brief report upon completion and notify the Equity Fund of any major changes. I understand that misuse of funds may require repayment and could affect future eligibility.

Choices

I understand and Agree

Thank you for your courage, creativity, and commitment to justice. We see you, and we're honored to walk with you.