



2026-2028 Social Justice Grant Request for Proposal FAQ

The 49ers are inviting national and local Bay Area organizations who are currently engaged in effective strategies for improving racial equity, with a focus on the Black community, to apply for operating support or programmatic funding through the 2026-2028 49ers Social Justice Grant.

ELIGIBILITY

Who is eligible to apply for the RFP?

- Registered 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) organizations operating for over 3 years.
- Local organizations who conduct their work in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, San Mateo or Santa Clara Counties.
- National organizations that serve at least ten states including California.

Are organizations registered outside of the Bay Area who have satellite offices/chapters or run programs in one of the five counties eligible?

- Yes.

If we run a California statewide program, should we identify our organization as local or national?

- If you do not qualify under the designation of a national organization but run a statewide program in California that has operations or programs in one of the five Bay Area counties listed above, you can apply as a local organization.

Are government agencies or agencies primarily funded by the government eligible for grant funds?

- No.

QUALIFIED PROJECTS/PROGRAM

What type of policy change and/or direct services are being funded?

- Improving Community - Police Relations: Increase number of police departments whose actions reflect fair and unbiased police conduct. Examples might include independent community organizations focused on

police de-escalation training, implicit bias training, policy change regarding decriminalization of poverty, use of force, transparency of data, use of body cameras and accessibility of footage, and accountability.

- Criminal Justice Reform: Creating a future without mass incarceration. Examples might include legislative and policy reform in sentencing, parole, bail and/or probation in adult and/or juvenile systems.
- Education and Economic Advancement: Investing in prosperous futures for the Black community including through educational opportunity, GED/high school equivalency programming, college access support, literacy, financial literacy, job readiness programming and nonprofits that support minority-owned businesses.

Can the funds be used for:

- Operating expenses? Yes
- New and/or existing programs? Yes
- Programmatic expenses? Yes
- Staff/headcount? Yes
- To purchase equipment? Yes
- Capital funding for projects? No
- Real estate purchases? No
- Scholarships? No
- Awards to Individuals? No
- Fundraising events or endowments? No
- Political or religious entities? No
- Non-denominational faith-based organizations? Yes
- Exclusive membership organizations and associations or membership dues? No
- Deficits or retroactive funding? No

APPLICATIONS

What level of detail should be included in the program/project narrative section?

- Please include as much detail as you can within the word count restrictions. Applications that include detailed descriptions of the project or program for which funds are being requested as well as the anticipated outcomes are preferred.

What is the total amount an organization is eligible to apply for?

- We will take a holistic approach to the funding amounts and grant denominations will be determined on an individual basis. The minimum amount of funding we will distribute is a \$50,000 grant over two years and the maximum will be a

\$200,000 grant over two years. Organizations will need to include other sources of funding in the proposed budget.

Can an organization apply for multiple categories? (e.g. economic advancement, education, police and community relations, etc.)

- Yes

Will any particular age groups be prioritized? (e.g. elementary vs. young adults, etc.)

- No

May we add supplemental materials (appendixes) to the proposal that are outside of the application word count?

- No

Is an organization who received grant funding from the 49ers 2024-2026 Social Justice grant eligible to apply?

- Yes - This is a new grant cycle and organizations should submit an application as if they are applying for the first time.
- If you have received grant funding for two cycles in a row, you are not eligible for the current grant cycle. (i.e. received grant funding in both 2022-2024 and 2024-2026)

Who will make up the selection committee?

- San Francisco 49ers players, Community Impact team members, Black employee resource group members, and executives.

REPORTING

What are the reporting requirements?

- As part of the finalization of the grantees, grantees will be required to sign a Memorandum of Understanding that outlines reporting requirements.
- Grantees will be required to submit progress reports annually for the duration of the grant period. Grantees should be prepared to share quantitative and qualitative metrics of success, including the number of individuals reached and/or impacted by their programs or legislative progress made.
- Grantees will be required to have an annual check-in call to discuss progress from the grant funding.

How much detail should be provided with our budget overview?

- Please find our budget template [here](#). The goal of submitting the program budget is to help us understand what resources are required to implement your program and your sustainability plan. For income, please include other funding sources that support the program for which you are requesting funds. If you have submitted proposals or pitched partners in the last 3 months and are awaiting a response, those dollars can be included. For expenses, please list direct expenses tied specifically to the program and the portion of indirect expenses which are allocated to the program. Examples of indirect expenses include but are not limited to administrative or overhead costs. Personnel costs should be listed separately as they can be direct or indirect expenses. The example is for illustrative purposes only. This example is based on a two year proposal.

Is there a limit to how long the proposed project can take?

- All funds should be spent within three months of the grant term end date, however, programs that demonstrate sustainability past our grant terms will be prioritized. Proposals that outline project readiness to utilize funds promptly are preferred.

PARTNERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

What additional requirements are expected (but not guaranteed) of the grantees?

- Participation in interview with the organization's representatives
- Providing additional media, records and financial documents upon request (e.g. board-approved budget, audited financials, project balance sheet)
- Team volunteer involvement in relevant programs at least once per year. Past examples have included:
 - 49ers player participation in young leaders conference
 - Youth mentorship lunch with 49ers staff
 - Documentary screenings at stadium theater
 - Joint press conferences announcing legislative action
 - Podcast interview or panel participation with 49ers representative

Please expand on what potential player engagement opportunities, events, podcasts, etc. look like.

- In the past, we have had a player, alumni, executives and other organization representatives participate in mentoring events, record a podcast with renowned activists, speak on panels, participate in educational sessions, town halls and more. While we have limitations, we will work with you on creating unique opportunities to help move your programs forward.

What is the average timeline for an executive to get involved?

- Timing will depend on availability. There is more flexibility with executives, staff and alumni than with players, and we will look to collaborate with grantees to identify the best opportunities available.

Please reach out to grants@49ers.com for additional questions. Thank you!