

Policy & Advocacy General Operating RFP Grant FAQs

What is a general operating grant?

General operating support is a grant in support of a nonprofit organization's mission rather than specific projects or programs.

If this is a general operating grant, why does the grant application ask about past success and future plans?

In order for Dogwood to assess mission alignment and capacity of an organization to use grant funds to advance mission, it is important to learn about the applicant's past success and future plans.

Why is Dogwood interested in policy and advocacy?

While we fund projects that increase access to housing, education, economic opportunity, health and wellness, and community equity, we also know that realizing our purpose requires examining the underlying causes of disparate health outcomes in our region. Such examinations often reveal public policies that do not serve the people of WNC who are experiencing the most challenges to improving their health and wellbeing.

Can the grant award be used for lobbying?

As a general operating support grant, Dogwood cannot direct the specific use of the grant award. As a private foundation, Dogwood is not permitted to fund lobbying efforts.

What is expected as a member of the learning community?

As a condition of the grant, awardee organizations are expected to participate in a year-long learning community. Meeting in-person and virtually every-other month between September 2024 and September 2025, the cohort's goals will be to create and strengthen relationships among key state and local policy and advocacy groups in North Carolina; to build collective understanding of the issues facing Western North Carolina and potential policy change options to improve communities in the region, and to identify areas of needed policy change and capacity development. Cohort participants will receive an honorarium in acknowledgement of the value of their time and travel reimbursement.

My organization works on policy and advocacy that is outside the five substantive areas that Dogwood focuses on. Are we eligible to apply?

Yes. However, note that Dogwood is interested in supporting organizations that are mission aligned.

How much funding is available?

Organizations are eligible to apply for a two-year award. Award amounts will vary from \$50,000 over two years to \$250,000 over two years, depending on organizational size and capacity. Dogwood anticipates making a total of no more than 15 awards.

How do we apply?

Please visit <https://dogwoodhealthtrust.org/what-we-fund/special-initiatives/policy-advocacy/> for a link to the application.

What kind of reporting is required?

We will ask for a very short narrative description of how your organization used these funds. We also would appreciate your stories of the impact this grant had for your organization.

What's the timeline for applying?

The RFP will open April 1, 2024. Organizations will have through 5:00pm on April 26, 2024 to submit an application. Awards will be announced in July 2024.

Whom do I contact to discuss an application or to learn more?

Email Emily Quinlan at e.quinlan@dht.org with questions.