

investing in policy & advocacy organizations

request for proposals

Dogwood's purpose is to dramatically improve the health and wellbeing of all people and communities in the 18 counties and Qualla Boundary of Western North Carolina (WNC). While we fund projects that increase access to housing, education, economic opportunity, health and wellness, and support community equity, we also know that realizing our purpose requires examining the underlying causes of disparate outcomes in our region. Such examination often reveals public policies that do not serve the people of WNC who are experiencing the most challenges to improving their lives.

Dogwood Health Trust is requesting general operating support proposals from nonprofit organizations working on state and/or local policy issues that align with Dogwood's priority areas and are looking to increase their advocacy presence and connections in the Qualla Boundary and our 18-county service region in WNC or increase the representation of WNC issues and communities in their organization's statewide advocacy. Dogwood's priority areas are community equity, housing, education, economic opportunity, and health and wellness. Examples of policy areas of interest to Dogwood might include early childhood education, capital for entrepreneurs, supportive housing, or mitigating barriers to Medicaid enrollment. Proposals will be accepted from single-issue

and multi-issue advocacy groups as well as those representing specific populations (for example but not limited to, the Latino community) or that focus on a specific geographic community. We welcome applications from smaller or emergent advocacy groups, as we know such groups will play a significant role in our region in the future.

Grants will range from \$50,000 to \$250,000. This range represents the total amount over the course of two years. This investment will focus on providing multi-year funding to organizations that engage in any of the following advocacy activities: public and/or decisionmaker education; coalition building; communications; research, writing, data collection and/or analysis; organizing; civic engagement; and more. We intend to fund 10-15 grantees. Selection will be guided by a team of internal and external reviewers.

As a private foundation, Dogwood is not permitted to fund lobbying efforts.

at-a-glance

Purpose: ●Support local and statewide advocacy organizations in their efforts to increase advocacy activities in WNC
●Support increased representation of WNC voices and concerns in state-level policy conversations ●Support connection between advocacy organizations ●Form a cohort of grantees who will inform

Dogwood's future policy priorities and identify WNC advocacy infrastructure needs.

Grantee cohort: The grantee cohort will meet every other month over the course of 12 months. Grantees will select 1-3 team members to participate and will be compensated for their time. The cohort will be facilitated by Ami Nagle of Ami Nagle and Associates Consulting. The goal of the cohort, which will be comprised of local and statewide advocacy organizations, is to recommend policy priorities to advance WNC and ways Dogwood can support advocacy infrastructure.

Funding available:

Grants will generally range from \$50,000-\$250,000 for a two-year period. The following factors will be taken into consideration when determining grant amount: Extent to which policy & advocacy are core to the organization; organization's goals over the next two years; capacity; budget size; geographic scope; and strength of proposal.

Selection criteria will include:

- Mission alignment
- Track record with advocacy work
- Communications capacity
- Engagement with public voice
- Policy leadership experience
- Meaningful collaboration

Timeline and application process:

- March 25, 2024 at 12:00pm: Informational webinar will be offered and will be recorded and posted on Dogwood's website.
- April 1, 2024: Online application will be available on Dogwood's website.

- April 26, 2024 by 5:00pm: Applications are due.
- July 2024: Award notifications will be made.
- September 2024: Funds will be distributed.

Learn more: Contact Emily Quinlan, Director of Public Policy at e.quinlan@dht.org.