

# leverage fund faqs



## What is the Leverage Fund?

The Leverage Fund is a pool of resources dedicated to helping WNC nonprofits, government agencies, or collaborations apply for and receive state or national funding from outside the region to support the work of improving health and wellness within the region.

## Why this approach?

There are billions of dollars available from federal and state funds, as well as from large national foundations. However, Western North Carolina has often been overlooked or underrepresented when it comes to attracting those funds to our region. We believe that WNC is home to a host of creative, innovative problem solvers whose daily demands make it difficult to pay attention to national funding opportunities. Further, securing national grants can be a complex and cumbersome process. The Leverage Fund will provide organizations and collaborations in our region with the capacity and technical assistance to overcome those barriers.

## What will the Leverage Fund do?

Through the Leverage Fund, Dogwood Health Trust will connect area nonprofits, government agencies or collaborations with seasoned, professional grant writers who have strong track records in securing public or private funds. Dogwood Health Trust will pay for the services of the grant writer, as well as other services related to creating a grant application, such as travel stipends, meeting expenses for collaborative partners, etc.

## What kind of funding is available?

There are hundreds of opportunities offered by federal, state and national private sources for a wide variety of organizations. Dogwood Health Trust is interested in helping organizations or collaborations apply for grants of \$100,000 or more that will ultimately improve health outcomes for residents of the region.

## Will my organization receive funds from Dogwood Health Trust?

No. Although Dogwood Health Trust will not make a grant directly to the applying organization, we will support the cost of an experienced, professional grant writer and other costs that may be associated with creating a competitive grant application.

## Can I select my own grant writer?

Dogwood Health Trust is developing a cohort of highly successful grant writers with deep experience in pursuing grants from federal and state agencies, as well as from large national foundations. While we are always happy to add new talent to our list, we reserve the right to approve grant writers whom you and we agree are the best match for your needs.

## How do I find potential grants to apply for?

Almost every federal and state agency posts grant opportunities online. So do most national foundations. While Dogwood Health Trust does maintain and update a list of some funding opportunities, it is by no means exhaustive. We strongly recommend you conduct an internet search based on your organization's focus areas and programs. Some potential sites to explore might include:

- **Grants.gov**
- **NCDHHS Grant Opportunities**
- **GrantsAlert**
- **GrantWatch**
- **Candid (formerly The Foundation Center)**

## Will Dogwood Health Trust tell me about opportunities?

Dogwood Health Trust will keep a list of some opportunities on our website and update it as often as possible. However, this list will be fairly general, and organizations will uncover more opportunities by searching the internet or specific agency foundation websites using their own search criteria. In most cases, we will not actively promote grant opportunities to individual organizations.

## Does Dogwood Health Trust have to approve the funding I want to pursue?

No. You are encouraged to pursue any source of funding. When we talk with you about your plans, we'll decide together whether support from the Leverage Fund makes sense. However, please keep in mind that the Leverage Fund is designed to support grant applications of \$100,000 and above, from reputable sources.

## What if other organizations in the region are applying for the same funds?

If we are aware that more than one organization or collaborative is pursuing the same funding source, we will make all parties aware of the situation, and we will help explore ways to turn potential competition into cooperation or collaboration. Ultimately, we may only be able to support the approach that is most likely to secure the greatest impact for the region.

## How do I apply for assistance from Dogwood Health Trust? Do I need to fill out an application?

There is no application for the Leverage Fund. If you are interested in pursuing an opportunity, simply call us. We'll discuss the opportunity with you to determine if the time is right to support your application through the Leverage Fund.

## What will Dogwood Health Trust expect from my organization if I take advantage of the Leverage Fund?

Once you are partnered with your grant writer, Dogwood Health Trust will step aside unless our continued involvement will increase the likelihood of an award. In general, we will not be part of the application process, nor will we ask to approve your application. However, you should expect to set time aside to work directly with your grant writer. And if you have questions for us during the process, we are happy to talk to you.

## What kind of reporting is required, if I receive support from the Leverage Fund?

Dogwood Health Trust only asks two things of Leverage Fund recipients: 1) that you let us know if you received the grant you applied for and if so, the amount you received; and 2) that you be willing to share stories of how the new funding has impacted your work, should we ask.

## What's the timeline for applying for national funding?

Every national and state funder has its own deadlines. Most public agencies provide application windows of 30-45 days once a grant opportunity is officially posted. However, you may also find information about grant opportunities that are forecasted to occur. (Please note that there are no guarantees that a forecasted grant will actually become posted.) Dogwood Health Trust will provide professional grant writers who can work within the timelines dictated by each national or state funder within reason.

## Is there a deadline for communicating with Dogwood Health Trust about my interest in the Leverage Fund?

No. The only deadlines to pay attention to are the ones published by the funding sources you seek. Support from the Leverage Fund is available at any time.

## Will the Leverage Fund pay for other capacity building work, such as annual fundraising support, professional development, financial expertise, or leadership development?

No. The Leverage Fund is dedicated solely to securing grants of more than \$100,000 from federal and state sources or from other private philanthropies.

## Whom do I contact to discuss a grant opportunity or to learn more?

Submit a rolling grant **Engage With Us** form here:

<https://dogwoodhealthtrust.org/apply-grantseekers/>