

California Fund for Youth Organizing

See below for the following documents:

- *History and Background*
- *Grant Application*
- *Proposal Ranking Sheet*

History and Background

“Youth organizing relies on the power, leadership, and membership of young people on issues affecting youth and their communities. Using direct action, community research, issue development, reflection, and political analysis, youth organizing seeks to alter power relations, create meaningful institutional change and build leaders.”

— *Why Youth Organizing?*, Youth Action

Increasing the ability of young people to shape public policies and institutions is a powerful strategy taking hold in low- income communities throughout California. Across the state, a new generation of youth organizers is mobilizing and training primarily low income, youth of color to speak out on unacceptable conditions in public schools, juvenile justice facilities and local communities. This emerging method of working with young people weaves together theories of community organizing with youth development to create work that is explicitly committed to individual and community change. While there are many models of youth organizing emerging in California, they all tend to share some common characteristics. Generally they:

- **Train young people in community organizing and advocacy** and assist them in using these skills to alter power relations and create meaningful institutional change in their communities;
- **Trust in the power, leadership and vision of youth** acting on issues defined by and affecting them and their communities;
- **Involve** them in the design, implementation, and evaluation of these efforts;
- **Develop capacities** such as community research, issue development, public speaking, reflection, political analysis, and direct action; and,
- **Increase civic participation** and build the individual and collective leadership capacity of young people.

In the Fall of 2001, Craig McGarvey , Program Director for Civic Culture at the James Irvine Foundation, Leticia Alcantar, Senior Program Officer at the Tides Foundation and Amanda Berger from the Funders’ Collaborative on Youth Organizing came together to discuss strategies for building the capacity of youth organizing groups in California. The James Irvine Foundation, known for its leadership in the development of the Central Valley Partnership, was looking for ways to broaden their work to support the next generation of grassroots civic leaders in California. Craig McGarvey had the idea to award a grant of \$300,000 to the Tides Foundation to create a fund that would support youth organizing in California and would bring together an advisory group of youth organizer representatives from around the state. He was also looking for a trusted financial mechanism through which

the Irvine Foundation could make smaller grants appropriate for local youth organizing groups.

Following this meeting, Leticia Alcantar was invited to submit a grant proposal from the Tides Foundation to the Irvine Foundation for these funds. Amanda Berger was hired as a part-time consultant to plan for an advisory group to set the direction for this fund and to coordinate its work with the national Funders' Collaborative on Youth Organizing.

On November 7, 2001 youth organizers from around the state (see list below) were invited to meet with Craig, Leticia and Amanda to brainstorm ideas for a start up fund for youth organizing in California. At that meeting the group decided that in its first round the project should focus on regions in which youth organizing was currently emerging (Southern California and the Central Valley) and that the grant from the Irvine Foundation should be used to leverage funds from other local foundations in California interested in supporting youth organizing. They also began planning for a technical assistance program that might link more established groups and intermediaries in the Bay Area with emerging groups in the Central Valley and Southern California.

In December 2001 the James Irvine Foundation awarded a \$300,000 grant to the Tides Foundation to establish the California Fund for Youth Organizing (CF4YO). The CF4YO advisory committee met again in January, 2002, established three working committees (grantmaking, technical assistance and fund development) and began the work of implementing a program to award grants and to provide technical assistance to groups in San Diego, Los Angeles and the Central Valley.

On May 1, 28 groups were invited to apply for grants from the CF4YO. The grantmaking committee will review proposals, conduct site visits and recommend funding for groups by August 1. In August, a second RFP will be distributed to support technical assistance grants to build the capacity of youth organizing groups in these areas. Our next full advisory committee meeting is June 20, 2002. Interested funders are welcome to attend this meeting. **For more information contact, Amanda Berger at 510-704-9864.**

CF4YO Advisory Committee:

Taj James, Movement Strategy Center
Tracey Bishop, Contra Costa Interfaith Organization
Lisa Charley, Californians for Justice
Kimi Lee, Southern Californians for Youth
Luis Sanchez, Youth Organizing Communities
Kim McGillicuddy, LA Youth Justice Partnership
Oscar Flores, YUCA
Jonathan London, Youth in Focus
Alex Tom, YOC San Diego
Yuki Kididoro, Communities for a Better Environment LA
Anna Rodriguez, the Central Valley Partnership
Genevieve Gonzales, School of Unity and Liberation

Grant Application

NNG COMMON GRANT APPLICATION for TIDES FOUNDATION

California Fund for Youth Organizing

Proposal Format

I. COVER SHEET

Please use the Tides Foundation cover sheet

II. PROPOSAL SUMMARY (maximum of 1 page, separate sheet)

Please summarize briefly the purpose of your organization. Briefly explain why your organization is requesting this grant, how young people are involved, including leadership roles they play in your organization, what outcomes you hope to achieve, and how you will spend the funds if the grant is made.

III. NARRATIVE (maximum of 5 pages)

A. Introduction and Background of Organization (Incorporating the following points:)

1. Briefly describe your organization's history and major accomplishments.
2. Describe your current programs and activities.
3. Who is your constituency (be specific about demographics such as age, race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexual orientation, etc.)? How are they actively involved in your work and how do they benefit from this program and/or your organization?
4. Describe the structure of your organization. How are decisions made, and who is involved (staff, board, others)? What is the size of your staff, volunteers, and board?
5. Describe how young people provide leadership and how they are involved in the design, implementation, and evaluation of programs and campaigns.

B. Describe your request (Incorporating the following points:)

1. Problem statement: what problems, needs, or issues does it address?
2. What are the goals, objectives and activities/strategies involved in this request? Describe your specific activities/strategies using a timeline over the course of this request.
3. Describe systemic or social change you are trying to achieve. How does your work address and change the underlying or root causes of the problem?
4. Describe your plans for fundraising beyond this request.
5. If funding were available, what technical assistance services would be useful to you? (For example, help with strategic planning, board development, fundraising, campaign development, leadership training, media etc.)

C. Evaluation

The California Fund for Youth Organizing is interested in youth organizing groups assessing the success and impacts of their own activities. We are also interested in sharing the innovations and lessons gained from these activities with other youth organizers. An evaluation plan that will measure and document the outcomes of your project will help achieve these goals. Please briefly answer the following questions about how you will evaluate your project.

1. What are the goals this project is trying to achieve?
2. How will you know if you have achieved these goals? (what changes in the youth and/or the community will be seen as a result of your project?)
3. What questions will help you measure how well you have achieved your goals?
4. What methods will you use to ask and answer these questions (such as questionnaires or focus groups)?
5. Who will be involved in the evaluation (such as staff, board, youth served by the project, consultants) and what will their roles be?
6. How will the evaluation results be used to improve your work in the future?

IV. ATTACHMENTS/REQUIREMENTS

A. Finances

1. If available, most recent, audited, completed full year organizational financial statement (expenses, revenue and balance sheet) or Fiscal sponsor
2. Organization's current annual operating budget (see attached form) or fiscal sponsor
3. If the request is for project support, current project budget (see attached form).
4. Projected operating budget for upcoming year (see attached form).
5. A copy of your IRS 501(c)(3) letter. If you do not have 501(c)(3) status, please provide the 501(c)(3) letter of your fiscal sponsor.

B. Optional Supporting Material (Please be selective: Send materials that are applicable to your request.)

1. Letter of recommendation or description of involvement from young person (up to 3)
2. List of board of directors or advisory committee with demographic information (including age)
3. Recent newsletter, articles, newspaper clippings, evaluations, videos/cassettes, or reviews (up to 2)
4. Recent annual report, if available

Guidelines for applicants
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Send three (3) complete copies of your proposal application, including cover sheet and attachments.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use a standard typeface no smaller than 12 points and no less than 1” in margins.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Your proposal must be double-spaced and double -sided
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Binders or folders are not accepted.

California Fund for Youth Organizing

RANKING SHEET 2002 Cycle

Organization	
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Type of organization (check one):

- Established project and organization
- Emerging organization
- New project

RANKING

1). Organizing Capacity	
Organization has an on-going membership recruitment mechanism for youth	1 2 3 4 5
Organization has curriculum/training and on-going leadership development	1 2 3 4 5
Staff, Board, volunteers, members are reflective of communities being organized	1 2 3 4 5
Organization has a demonstrated track record of activity and success in organizing their constituencies.	1 2 3 4 5
A one-year commitment of this size will make a meaningful contribution to the work.	1 2 3 4 5
SCORE =	

2). Organizational Capacity & Sustainability	
Organization has established fund raising and finance systems	1 2 3
Organization effectively engages in program planning and evaluation processes	1 2 3
Organization has effective governance and decision making processes	1 2 3
SCORE =	

3). Policy Impact & Potential	
Organization engages in intentional alliance and coalition building agendas	1 2 3 4 5
Organization has an analysis of issue landscape including key decision-makers, allies and opposition	1 2 3 4 5
Campaign seeks to achieve a measurable policy or institutional impact through specific demands	1 2 3 4 5
Organization has a developed campaign plan (identifying issues, goals, power analysis targets) with potential to achieve demands	1 2 3 4 5
SCORE =	

4). Role of Youth	
Involve youth in decision-making and the design, implementation and evaluation of campaigns and programs	1 2 3 4 5
Intentional movement of youth into and up the organization (members to leaders to staff)	1 2 3 4 5
Members and constituents are under 20	1 2 3 4 5
Organization employs or seeks to develop innovative youth governance models	1 2 3 4 5
SCORE =	

TOTAL SCORE (1+2+3+4+5) =	
RECOMMENDATION SCORE (TOTAL SCORE / 7.4)	

RECOMMENDATION (circle one)

- YES** (10 – 8)
- DISCUSS FURTHER** (7 – 4)
- NO** (3 – 1)

COMMENTS: