

Samara Fund Grant Program (2024)

Vermont Community Foundation

Samara Fund Guidelines

The Samara Fund at the Vermont Community Foundation is a group of Queer and Trans Vermonters committed to a vision of transformational grants and scholarships to the people and groups throughout Vermont who demonstrate their dedication to the empowerment, health, and safety of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and HIV positive (LGBTQ+) people.

Core values guide our work. We are:

- Anti-racist and anti-oppressive by practicing intersectionality, power-shifting, and transformative justice both internally and externally. This includes being proudly trans-inclusive in every level of our work.
- Transparent with our community and funders about how we work.
- Queering fundraising and redistributing wealth for a bigger impact on the Vermont LGBTQ+ community.
- Prioritizing accessibility, gratitude, and accountability while queering our work to make it fun, connective, and sustainable.

Our values guide what we fund. Our funding priorities are:

- Queer and trans-led projects and orgs
- Projects that center, are led by, and/or prioritize BIPOC and/or trans Vermonters
- Elders and youth
- Queers with disabilities
- Work that is harm reduction (including HIV/AIDS prevention and advocacy)
- Projects meaningfully working beyond Chittenden County
- Smaller budget projects
- Long-term projects

Our values guide how we fund. We offer 5 distinct types of funding:

- General organizational support
- Project-specific support to organizations
- Emergent (unplanned) needs for organizations
- Sponsorship of queer events

- Scholarships for LGBTQ+ high school students committed to positive change for LGBTQ+ people who seek to enroll at a four-year college or university, a career or technical college, or a vocational program.

Applicants are eligible for one grant from the Samara Fund in a calendar year. Exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis. These grants can be applied for using the grants portal system. The emergent needs and sponsorship grants may be applied for at any point on a rolling basis. We also fund scholarships for LGBTQ+ youth and that process is managed through the VSAC system.

Please review the full application guidelines on our website by clicking here.

Helpful Hints:

- Character limits include spaces and punctuation.
- Be sure to save your work frequently by clicking the "Save" button at the bottom of the page as the system will log out after 90 minutes of inactivity.
- The size of text boxes can be adjusted by dragging on the lower right corner.
- Create, save, and print a PDF version of your application via the "Application Packet" button at the top of the page. All content and attachments will be included.

All applications must be submitted electronically to the Vermont Community Foundation through the application form in the Online Grants Manager, which can be accessed at www.vermontcf.org/OGM. Applications will not be accepted by mail or email. If you have questions about the Online Grants Manager, please contact jmulcahy@vermontcf.org or 802-828-7760.

Organizational Questions

Organizational Budget*

What is your annual total organizational budget?

Character Limit: 20

LGBTQ+ Group or Organizational Leadership*

The Samara Fund prioritizes funding groups and organizations whose leadership represents at least 50% of the LGBTQ+ community. Do you meet this threshold?

Choices

Yes

No

What status best describes the applicant?*

Choices

Registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit

Municipal entity (i.e., town, public school, or other municipal department or agency)

Church or religious group

Other - Please provide details in your answer to the next question.

If you answered "other", please explain the applicant's status: (If applicable)

For example, if the applicant has a fiscal sponsor -- or if it operates under the umbrella of a larger registered nonprofit -- use this space to provide additional details.

Character Limit: 10000

Fiscal Sponsorship (If applicable)

Our grants must be paid to a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit, church/religious group, or school/town/municipal agency. If your organization or group does not fall into one of these categories, you will need to use a fiscal sponsor. Download a blank **Fiscal Sponsor Agreement form** (click on the blue words for the download link) and forward it to your fiscal sponsor to print, fill out, and sign.

If you are not a 501(c)3 nonprofit, church/religious group, or municipality, and are in need of a fiscal sponsor, please contact Elisabeth Marx at emarx@vermontcf.org for help connecting with a fiscal agent/non-profit.

If you have other questions, please contact 802-828-7760.

Upload a scanned copy of your signed Fiscal Sponsor Agreement below. You must use the official VCF Fiscal Sponsor Agreement form.

File Size Limit: 2 MB

Did you receive grant support from the Samara Fund in a previous year?*

Choices

Yes

No

If yes, please list the year(s) and amount(s).

Character Limit: 25

Request Summary

Project Title*

Character Limit: 100

Total Amount Requested*

Minimum \$500 / Maximum \$5,000

Character Limit: 20

Type of Support Requested:*

Choices

- PROJECT support
- GENERAL ORGANIZATIONAL support
- EMERGENT NEED
- EVENT SPONSORSHIP

Keep the following guidance in mind when completing this application:

- If you are applying for PROJECT support, please answer these questions as they relate to your project.
- If you are applying for GENERAL OPERATING support, please answer these questions as they relate to your whole organization.

Geographic Focus*

Does your project have a statewide focus, or is it being implemented in specific regions? Please check either Statewide or each county your project serves below.

Choices

- Statewide
- Addison County
- Bennington County
- Caledonia County
- Chittenden County
- Essex County
- Franklin County
- Grand Isle County
- Lamoille County
- Orange County
- Orleans County
- Rutland County
- Washington County
- Windham County
- Windsor County

Which of the Samara Fund priority areas are addressed by your proposal?*

Choose all that apply.

Choices

- Queer and trans-led projects and orgs
- Projects that center, are led by, and/or prioritize BIPOC and/or trans Vermonters
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- Queers with disabilities
- Work that is harm reduction (including HIV/AIDS prevention and advocacy)
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Long-term projects

Application Questions

Organization and Work*

Tell us about your group or organization, who you are, the work you do, and impact on the LGBTQ+ community. If you are new to this work, describe your desired impact and your connection to the community.

Character Limit: 10000

Organization Values*

Tell us about your values as a group or organization, especially how you are accountable to the community and internally accountable to yourselves.

Character Limit: 10000

Samara Fund Value Alignment*

Looking back at the Samara Fund values, tell us a story of how your group or organization aligns with our funding values.

Character Limit: 10000

Funding Proposal Description*

What do you need funds for? How will it uplift the LGBTQ+ community?

Character Limit: 10000

Outcome*

Tell us about what the outcome of funding your project or organization will be like? How will it feel, what will it look like, how will Samara Fund know we've been of help to you?

Character Limit: 10000

Attachments

We require all budget attachments to be saved in PDF file format. Sample budget documents can be downloaded from the Community Foundation's **Online Grants Center FAQ** webpage. If you have questions about the attachments, please contact 802-828-7760.

Project Budget (Required if applying for project support)

Attach a PDF copy of your itemized project budget. You should include both expenses and revenue, including pending and secured support.

File Size Limit: 2 MB

Budget Narrative

Use this section to provide additional information to help us understand your organizational and/or project budget.

Character Limit: 600

Save and Submit

By submitting your application to the Vermont Community Foundation, you give us permission to share your application with other potential funders, both individuals and foundations.