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| **Grant Summary**  Grant Application Guidelines | |
| **Grant description** | The Greater Milwaukee Foundation is requesting proposals from residents, grassroots groups and community and faith-based organizations that provide activities and events that promote peace, community building, supports cohesion and build social connections among neighbors; social innovation and creativity. The grant will build capacity of local formal and informal neighborhood groups who are seeking to take action and have the potential to build and strengthen positive relationships in neighborhoods right now on the ground |
| **Grant amount** | * Grants range $500 to $5,000   One application may be submitted per eligible group. |
| **Eligibility** | The fund will consider applications from city of Milwaukee grassroots groups, and neighborhood-based groups both formal and informal.  Organizations must be considered charitable organizations as determined by the IRS internal revenue code 501(c)(3). ***Please note:*** Organizations that do not have this designation may use a fiscal sponsor (organization recognized as a 501(c) (3) charitable entity) to serve as the recipient and manager of the grant. Eligible nonprofits are required to have board membership that is at least 10 percent people of color. The term “people of color” refers to all persons who are not categorized as white by the U.S. Census. |
| **Target audience to be served** | Grants are intended to support the work of formal and informal groups formed by everyday people out of their mutual self-interest. We are looking for ideas that originate with a group of people from city of Milwaukee neighborhoods and that are being moved into action through educational events, group or youth activities, festivals, performances, picnics, recreational and block level activities, and those which build resident leadership. |
| **Application deadline** | April 3 and June 21, 2017 |
| **Funding notification** | May 12 and July 21, 2017 |
| **Grant period** | May 15, 2017 to September 15, 2017 (period will vary depending on project) |
| **Contact information** | Darlene C. Russell, Senior Program Officer  Greater Milwaukee Foundation  [drussell@greatermilwaukeefoundation.org](mailto:drussell@greatermilwaukeefoundation.org)  414.272.5805 |

**Reasons for Hope MKE Fund: Grant**

**Understanding the Problem**

Milwaukee neighborhoods are not immune to the unrest experienced in the Sherman Park neighborhood in August 2016. The Greater Milwaukee Foundation heard directly from residents and community leaders on the need for some short term immediate support for residents, grassroots groups and community organizations proactively working to promote peace: address neighborhood issues and build and strengthen community. In August 2016, the Foundation created the Reasons for Hope MKE Fund.

**Supporting the Solution**

The Reasons for Hope MKE Fund supports community based actions and activities that will encourage new and stronger relationships between residents of the community, grassroots groups and more established organizations. Building relationships is key to strengthening neighborhoods. This new fund has been created in direct response to many people and organizations who are seeking to take action and have the potential to build and strengthen positive relationships in neighborhoods right now, on the ground.

The Foundation has been investing in Sherman Park as well as other neighborhoods through the [Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative](http://www.greatermilwaukeefoundation.org/community-leadership/healthy-neighborhoods/) since 2006. HNI strategies incorporate significant amounts of social capital development through projects that connect neighbors to each other, offer opportunities to engage in neighborhood beautification projects and work that strengthens real estate markets. While the Foundation is currently engaged in larger, long-term efforts to support neighborhoods, this particular fund is purposely intended to provide highly targeted, immediate support to smaller local groups over the short term. This fund is not meant to be a quick fix to the broad and complex problems of neighborhoods nor is it a substitute for the intensive and wide-ranging efforts already underway or planned to develop in response to the many root causes of the challenges our neighborhoods face.

We welcome proposals that align with community goals and needs:

* **Goal 1- This project stimulates and supports initiatives designed and implemented by residents that address neighborhoods issues, build community and/or promote peace.**
* **Goal 2- This project encourages new and stronger relationships between neighborhoods in the community, among grassroots groups, between grassroots groups and more established organizations.**

**Program Requirements**

Funds will support programs and activities that promote peace, foster community cohesion, prevent violence and build social connections such as educational events, group or youth activities, resident leader stipends, recreational activities, festivals, performances, picnics, block-level activities including rental of venues and supplies and activities that promote constructive relationships between community and residents.

The fund will consider applications from grassroots groups, and neighborhood-based groups both formal and informal. Organizations must be considered charitable organizations as determined by the IRS internal revenue code 501(c) (3). **Please note:** Groups and organizations that do not have this designation **may use a fiscal sponsor** (an organization recognized as a 501(c) (3) charitable entity) to serve as the recipient and manager of the grant. Eligible nonprofits are required to have board membership that is at least 10 percent people of color. The term “people of color” refers to all persons who are not categorized as white by the U.S. Census.

**Submission Information**

A complete application must be submitted by 5 p.m. April 3, 2017 or June 21, 2017. Late or incomplete will not be considered.

**Grant Application Timeline**

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| March 1,2017 | Application Period begins |
| April 3, 2017 or  June 21, 2017 | **Applications due to the Greater Milwaukee Foundation** |
| May 12, 2017 or  July 21, 2017 | **Applicants notified of final funding decision** |