

Request for Proposal
Making a Difference Fund
Fall 2018

Background

The Making a Difference Fund is a group of passionate student leaders at Providence College who are committed to initiating change in the community in which we learn. This semester, the course “Philanthropy” is being offered to students studying Public and Community Service and Management--providing students with broad, diverse backgrounds to build a philanthropic board and allocate funds. In Spring 2018, the Making a Difference Fund awarded \$30,000 to nonprofits in Southern New England that focused on supporting vulnerable communities. This Fall, we will be granting **a total of \$23,000** to organizations within a 20-mile radius of Providence College. Preference will be given to those places most directly serving the neighboring communities to ensure that relationships created with the college can be maintained. By doing so, we hope to build strong, lasting relationships with the groups directly affected by our grant.

Our mission as a Board is to fund nonprofit organizations that best match our philanthropic goals. Our objectives center around the concept of catalytic philanthropy. We seek to support organizations that work across sectors, and leverage nonfinancial resources to create systemic and sustainable change. The board will provide funding to organizations that best embody these goals while providing programs that focus on the development of individuals’ agency.

Current Funding Priorities

For the Fall of 2018, the Making a Difference Fund will focus on organizations that provide programs that support people and inspire them with the skills, tools, experiences, education, and connections necessary to succeed in their life. Organizations with these core components must demonstrate how their programs encourage individuals to become their own agents of change. We will consider proposals from any program that meets these goals or objectives, regardless of the particular population it serves. It is pertinent that each organization emphasizes how their program promotes the individual agency of clients in their target population. We will accept requests for grants that are a minimum of **\$2,000**, however we encourage funding requests to be between **\$5,000** and **\$10,000**. Grants may be funded partially or in whole and organizations may apply for funds towards pre-existing programs as well as new program ideas.

Applicants are asked to demonstrate how the funds will make a catalytic difference in their organization and community. (Note: Preference will be given to requests that will allow our funds to be directed towards a specific purposeful program rather than towards general support for an organization that will make the funds indistinguishable from other funds.)

Eligibility

In order to apply for a grant from the Making a Difference Fund for Fall 2018, candidates must:

- Meet the above described Request for Proposal criteria
- Be registered as a 501 (c)(3) organization
- Demonstrate fiscal responsibility and sound governance
- Be prepared to meet and report the results of the grant to the Making a Difference Board
- Be open to site visits by members of the Making a Difference Board

Process

Upon receipt of proposals from the nonprofits who choose to apply, the Board will review the mission of each organization and will judge how they will use this grant to make a difference. Based on this analysis, the Board will identify finalists to be considered for a grant. This list of organizations will receive an in-person visit from a designated group of Board members who will evaluate these elements more in depth. Based on the evaluations of these Board members, a final group of organizations will be selected for a grant. At the end of each grant period, the Board will ask for a final report of how the grant was used and the impact on the organization and the target population. Organizations selected will be invited to the Providence College campus for an event in celebration of their awarded funding on Monday, December 3, 2018 at 4:30 p.m.

Important Dates

- Applications must be submitted by email to providencecollegephilanthropy@gmail.com no later than 4:00 pm, Thursday, November 1, 2018
- We will confirm your submission within the week of receiving it
- Finalists will be notified on Tuesday, November 6, 2018
- Site visits will occur between Thursday, November 8, 2018 and Friday, November 16, 2018
- Grant recipients will be notified by Tuesday, November 27, 2018
- Event to present awards to grant winners will be 4:30 p.m. Monday, December 3, 2018
- For any questions or comments please contact the Making a Difference Fund at providencecollegephilanthropy@gmail.com

PROVIDENCE COLLEGE
MAKING A DIFFERENCE FUND
PROPOSAL FORM—FALL 2018

1. Legal name of organization and address:

2. Name of current Executive Director(s):

3. Contact person and title:

4. Phone:

Email:

5. **Amount Requested: \$**

6. State your organization's mission and values:

7. Narrative (**1,500-word maximum**): Please attach a summary of your proposal and clearly indicate how the program or project will promote individuals' agency and catalytic change within Rhode Island.

a. Please include the following:

- What community need(s) and/or challenge(s) will this project address?
- What are your short-term and long-term goals and objectives?
- How will your organization use this grant to meet your goals and foster a sustainable impact?
- How does your organization encourage individuals to become their own agents of change?
- How will this grant enhance your current work in the community?
- What background/experience does your staff and/or volunteers have to oversee this grant program?
- What organizations (both private and public) will you collaborate with to address the issue(s) in this proposal?

b. List the proposal's target population, geographic communities served, and/or other important stakeholders.

c. Define the criteria of success for this project. State how you will evaluate your success and which metrics you will use.

8. *Optional: Include testimonials from individuals whose lives you have impacted.*

9. The period this grant will cover: ____/____ to ____/____

10. These attachments must accompany the proposal:

a. Your organization's most recent 990 form.

b. IRS letter confirming tax-exempt status – 501(c)(3).

c. A budget for the proposed program that identifies major sources of revenue and major expenses. Please include in-kind donations, which you should clearly identify.