

A.J. MUSTE MEMORIAL INSTITUTE
SOCIAL JUSTICE FUND — GRANT GUIDELINES
(updated October 4, 2018)

2019 application deadlines (all Mondays):

March 4, 2019 (for April 18 decision)
July 8, 2019 (for Sept. 12 decision)
Oct. 14, 2019 (for Dec. 7 decision)

[Sign up for our email list](#) to get notification of any changes to our guidelines, deadlines, or priorities.

CRITERIA:

The Muste Institute's Social Justice Fund considers proposals:

- for new and ongoing projects or campaigns, or efforts to expand existing work
- for capacity building, leadership development, and resource sustainability
- for projects with expense budgets under \$50,000
- from grassroots organizations with annual expenses of less than \$500,000
- from groups with limited access to more mainstream funding sources
- from groups with or without 501(c)3 status or a fiscal sponsor*
- from groups which have not received Social Justice Fund grants in at least two years**

The Social Justice Fund's priority is to support:

- direct grassroots activism and organizing
- groups with diverse, representative and democratic leadership structures
- groups that have or can obtain sufficient economic and in-kind support to carry out their regular work, but need additional support to carry out a project or build capacity

Although we value the work, we do **NOT** consider grant proposals for the following:

- general support of ongoing operations
- individual efforts or scholarships
- schools or universities; academic or research projects
- organizations with access to government, corporate or mainstream charitable funding
- art, theater, film or video projects that are not directly tied to activism or organizing
- economic development projects
- capital campaigns or expenses
- direct social services

- legal defense or litigation
- lobbying or electoral campaigns
- projects geared toward participants' personal improvement or business success
- conflict resolution or violence reduction projects, unless they directly promote activism
- projects that will have already taken place by the time the grant is received

* The Social Justice Fund only requires a fiscal sponsor if the group receiving the grant does not have its own bank account; we cannot issue checks to individuals. If you cannot receive a grant check made out to the name of your organization, you will need a fiscal sponsor.

** The Social Justice Fund will not accept a new request from a previously funded group for two years after a grant. If you are unsure about when you will qualify, check in with our office before applying.

HOW TO APPLY

Click [HERE](#) to begin application.

What Comes Next:

If your proposal is selected, you should expect a call or email from one of our grants researchers with any questions they might have. Final decisions on full proposals are expected about 10 weeks after the deadline date.

AJ Muste Institute

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