

## Applying to FORE for Grant Support

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### Eligibility and Grantmaking Process

- ***Does my organization need to have 501(c)(3) status to apply?***
  - FORE will consider grant requests for specific projects from U.S.-based public charities that are tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, as well as from nonprofit, tax-exempt universities. The Foundation will also consider grant requests from state, local, and Native American tribal government units or agencies for *specific charitable projects*.
- ***What if my organization is not required to have an annual audit?***
  - If your organization is not required to have audited financial statements, you can submit an Independent Accountants' Review (IAR) or your organization's most recent 990. If your organization is not required to have an IAR or 990, you must submit professionally generated financial statements.
- ***Is my organization still a 'New Applicant' even if it was previously invited to apply?***
  - If your organization applied for funding but was NOT awarded funding, it is still considered a 'New Applicant.'
- ***What are the regulations around lobbying?***
  - As required by the Internal Revenue Code, FORE cannot fund attempts to influence specific pending or proposed legislation, including referenda, local ordinances, and resolutions. This prohibition generally includes direct lobbying of legislators and other government officials with respect to specific legislation, as well as mass media advertising campaigns aimed at influencing specific legislation.
  - FORE may consider funding requests for efforts such as advocacy to improve the policies and administrative rules of executive, judicial, and administrative agencies; information-sharing that is neutral, nonpartisan, and fully describes both sides of a pending legislative issue; and policy research and education.
  - Detailed provisions describing a private foundation's prohibited activities can be found in Section 4945(e) of the Internal Revenue Code and Treasury Regulations Section 53.4945-2.
- ***How does the foundation determine what organizations to support?***
  - FORE may solicit proposals through competitive RFPs and/or proactive outreach. The majority of grants to date have been selected through RFPs which defined the specific focus area we wished to address, activities we would support, eligibility criteria for the grant program, and timelines for responding.
    - Full Proposals may be reviewed by a panel of external, independent practitioners and experts, as well as by program staff.
    - This review process may include feedback to selected applicants on draft proposals and recommended revisions.

- Funding recommendations will be prepared by FORE program staff and presented to the FORE Board of Directors for final approval.
- ***Does the foundation provide scholarships?***
  - FORE does not fund individuals, scholarships, or unincorporated associations or groups. Moreover, the foundation's funds can be used only for purposes that are consistent with its status as a nonpartisan, charitable organization. For example, we do not fund political candidates or political action committees.

### **GivingData/Technical Questions**

- ***How can I apply for funding?***
  - Applications must be submitted through the online grants management portal. Please check our [Grants and Funding](#) page for active RFPs. Unsolicited applications will not be considered.
- ***The application portal will not load.***
  - Our application portal works best on Google Chrome and Safari web browsers. Please try one of these browsers.
- ***I am using Chrome/Safari, but I am still having difficulty.***
  - You may need to clear your cache/cookies or check your internet connection.