Grant Information

2026 -2027

About Haymarket People's Fund

Haymarket People's Fund is an anti-racist and multi-cultural foundation committed to strengthening the movement for social justice in New England. Through grant-making, fundraising, and capacity building, we support grassroots organizations that address the root causes of injustice. Haymarket also organizes to increase sustainable community philanthropy throughout the region.

Haymarket envisions a world free of racism and other oppressions:

- Where peace and cooperation flourish.
- Where people are valued and respected for their gifts and able to bring their whole selves to humanity.
- Where vibrant communities thrive, and different cultures are celebrated.
- Where abundant resources and opportunities are equally shared and distributed while honoring the earth and all within it.

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We believe that our society needs changing and that social movements create change. We fund groups working to transform their communities and the institutions around them. Organizers from around New England actively involved in their communities serve on our Board of Directors and our New England Funding Panel, which is our grant decision making body. Since 1974, Haymarket has been behind the scenes, providing money to almost every community struggle in New England. We are in it for the long haul.

Haymarket does more than give money away. We work in partnership with community groups to strengthen the movements for social change and to increase community philanthropy around the region.

Grant Making Strategy

Haymarket believes community organizing is the most effective strategy for achieving our vision of an equitable, peaceful, and humane world.

By organizing, we mean efforts led by those most affected by injustice that focus on the root causes of the problems facing them and changing the institutions and structures of power that keep injustice in place.

We do not fund services for individuals' basic needs, self-help programs, or advocacy work unless they are part of an organizing strategy.

We at Haymarket also believe that, for real change to occur, **organizing must be anti-racist and must recognize the intersection of racism and other forms of oppression. We pay special attention to race because we understand that, in the United States, racism has divided all social change movements and has limited the effectiveness of our organizing work.**

Haymarket currently offers two kinds of grants - Sustaining Grants and Urgent Response Grants - for social justice organizing work in New England (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont). We are committed to supporting both urban and rural organizing across the region and funding start-up and emerging organizations and groups with a long history of grassroots organizing. We make grants for both general operating support and project work.

We look at community organizing broadly and fund groups that focus on the root causes of the problems they face, with strong constituency leadership and accountability, anti-racist and anti-oppression values and practices, and a commitment to movement building. We will consider funding cultural work and resources for organizing (such as workshops, conferences, and media work) that are part of an ongoing community organizing effort or are accountable to social change movements. (See the funding criteria section for more details)

Funding Criteria

We evaluate all applications for funding according to the following criteria:

1. **Self-determination and Accountability** - Is the organization or project led by and accountable to their constituency or community? Do constituents have real leadership and voice in all aspects of the organization?

2. **Leadership development** - Is the group strengthening the skills and experience of their constituency in all aspects of their work? How is leadership development built into their process?

3. **Anti-racism and anti-oppression values and practice** - Does the organization understand racism, and is it working to develop an anti-racist vision, values, and practice internally and externally in the community? Is it helping its members and leadership develop a clear understanding of racism and white privilege? Do they understand how racism and white privilege impact their community and the issues they are facing? Is their organization changing as a result of this work? Do they understand other areas of oppression and how they intersect with racism?

4. **Organizing for Systemic Change** - Does the group understand the underlying causes of the problems they are addressing, and do they have plans and strategies which address these root causes? Is the group working to create systemic change - that is, are they working to change the culture, institutions, and structures of power in their community? Does the organization have a power analysis?

5. **Movement building** - Is the organization building relationships and unity with other groups working on issues both similar and different from theirs? Can the group see its work as part of a larger struggle for change?

6. **Diversified funding base** - Is the group working to build a strong, diverse, and sustainable funding and resource base in their community? Does a group have a good mix of funding sources (i.e., grants, grassroots, etc.)?

7. **Limited access to traditional funding** - Haymarket is committed to funding groups that, because of their analysis and vision, have limited access to traditional funding sources (such as government and corporate funding). We have a history of funding start-ups and smaller grassroots organizations across the region. We do not fund groups with budgets over $400,000 (income & expenses).

Tax-Exempt Status

You do not have to have 501(c)3 tax-exempt status from the IRS or a fiscal sponsor to get a grant from Haymarket. You can apply if your work falls within what the IRS defines as charitable or educational tax-exempt activities. Please contact us if you would like more information.

Grant Making Guidelines

SUSTAINING GRANTS

Grant awards range up to $20,000 for grassroots, social change organizations that meet our funding criteria. Grant sizes are determined after carefully evaluating each proposal considering Haymarket's criteria and commitment to strengthening anti-racist movement building in New England. We fund both start-up groups (emerging) and more established groups (movement building). These categories help us compare and evaluate groups at similar stages of development. We ask that you choose the type that best fits your group.

1. *Emerging Groups:* Grassroots groups that are start-ups or are in the earlier stages of development. Organizations at this stage often focus on self-definition, understanding the root causes of the problems they are facing, leadership development, and capacity building. Emerging groups are typically less than five years old; however, groups coming out of a dormant phase or going through a period of transformation or rebirth may also fall into this category.

2. *Movement Building Groups:* More developed organizations with a well-established identity and position within their community, a clear track record, and actively working to strengthen the social justice movement. Effective organizations at this stage have a clear vision and mission, a solid understanding of the root causes of the problems they face, strong constituency leadership, well developed organizing strategies, and a demonstrated commitment to anti-racist movement building.

Timeline: **Proposals must be emailed or delivered to our office by 5:30 pm on Wednesday, December 2, 2026**. Postmark dates or late emails are not relevant, and those proposals will not be considered. Groups will be notified by early spring if they have been selected for an interview; however, please note that selection for an interview does not guarantee funding. Interviews are held in the spring. Groups are notified of grant decisions in June.

URGENT RESPONSE GRANTS

Urgent Response Grants are up to $5,000 to **help grassroots social change organizations respond quickly to unforeseen crises or opportunities that critically affect your organization and constituency**. This includes unexpected events, political crises, or organizing opportunities. Grants are NOT to be used for ongoing program work (including expenses the organization should have anticipated), for financial crises, a projected funding shortfall, or because the group missed a funding deadline.

Timeline: **Applications are accepted on a rolling basis as long as funding is available.** Groups will be notified about grant decisions 2 - 4 weeks after we receive your application. Interviews are by phone as needed.

What We Do Not Fund

1. Groups that primarily provide direct services that focus on meeting people's basic needs or that focus primarily on individual empowerment or self-help. Social service organizations can apply for a project-specific organizing grant if it fits Haymarket's criteria.
2. Publications, reports, workshops, classes, conferences, media events, arts, or theater productions, unless they are part of an ongoing community organizing effort or are accountable to social change movements.
3. Groups outside New England (unless they have a strong base in New England that holds them accountable) or work focused outside New England.
4. Legal or research expenses unless they are part of an overall organizing strategy.
5. Capital campaigns or endowment drives.
6. Individuals or individual projects (such as graduate research, fellowships, or scholarships).
7. Projects sponsored by a government agency. For example, Haymarket would not fund a project led by a school district. However, we would consider funding a project led by parents and students working to hold a school accountable for the inequitable treatment of children of color.
8. Organizations with budgets over $400,000 (income & expenses). Income includes all current assets and cash on hand, as well as committed funding, even if it has not yet been received.
9. Small businesses, alternative businesses, or business associations.
10. Other foundations.
11. IRS regulations prohibit us from funding the following:
    a. Electoral work that promotes specific candidates.
    b. Union organizing work, unless it is a campaign involving and benefitting the wider community (including non-union members).
    c. Civil disobedience or other actions that involve breaking the law.

AI Use Disclaimer

We know AI can be used as a tool for grant writing; however, when reviewing applications, we want to hear the applicants' voices, including specific details about your work. If you use AI, we encourage you to review it and ensure all application questions are answered with details and that your voice is heard.

How to Apply for a Haymarket Sustaining Grant

1. Read through this Grant Information package carefully. Evaluate whether the project or work for which you are requesting funds fits our criteria and goals.
2. If Haymarket has not funded you in the past three years, call the office and speak to a staff person about your work. We will send you an application package if you meet our basic criteria. Requests for applications will be considered up until November 30, 2026. Receiving an application does not guarantee funding.
3. All groups funded in the past three years will be emailed an application package in October 2026. Please call and request a copy if you have not received an application by late October. Any group funded during the prior year's cycle is eligible to apply for the December 2nd deadline.
4. Once you have received a Sustaining Grant Application, complete the Cover Sheet and Narrative and submit the required attachments.
5. **Sustaining Grant Applications must be submitted via email or mail to Haymarket's office by 5:30 pm on December 2, 2026.** Late emails and applications will not be considered. Postmark dates are not relevant.

How to Apply for a Haymarket Urgent Response Grant

1. Read through this Grant Information package carefully.
2. Evaluate whether your need meets the basic purpose of the Urgent Response Grants: to help grassroots, social change organizations respond quickly to unforeseen crises and or opportunity that critically affect your organization and constituency. This includes unexpected events or political or community crises. This is not a small grants program. Grants are not to be used for ongoing program work (including expenses the organization should have anticipated), for financial crises or funding shortfalls, or because the group missed a funding deadline.
3. Call (617) 522-7676 ext. 115 to receive an application and speak with a Haymarket staff about your request. If we feel it fits the basic criteria and purpose of an Urgent Response Grant, we will send you an application. Receiving an application does not guarantee funding.
4. Once you have received an Urgent Response Application, complete the Cover Sheet and Narrative and submit the required attachments. Groups may receive one Urgent Response Grant and one Sustaining Grant per year.
5. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis as long as funding is available. We will notify you of our decision within 2 – 4 weeks of receiving your application. If needed, we will conduct a phone interview or request additional information.

Haymarket Glossary of Terms

Accountability – Constituency has real leadership and voice in all aspects of the organization. Individuals and institutions that serve work on behalf of, and obtain resources in the name of your community must respect and follow their collective leadership.

Leadership Development - Strengthen the skills and experience of constituency in all aspects of work. We believe that anti-racist organizers need to be intentionally and systematically developed within local communities and organizations.

Constituency – Those most impacted by your work.

Anti-Racism - Haymarket believes that, for real change to occur, organizing must be anti-racist and must recognize the intersection of racism and other forms of oppression. The fabric of racism is inextricably woven and constructed into the founding principles of the United States. Racism was done and can be undone through effective anti-racist organizing with and in accountability to the communities most impacted by racism.

White Privilege and white culture – A position of superiority, codified into many aspects of United States law, from voting rights and property rights to immigration -- guaranteeing whites advantages over People of Color. The cultural heritage of European ethnicities has been replaced by a status of advantage and superiority, so being white means having unearned privilege. This culture of superiority is dominant in the United States, and as such, it permeates all aspects of our lives. It is a conscious or unconscious belief that the way whites do things is the right way.

Organizing - Efforts led by those most affected by injustice that focus on the root causes of the problems facing them and changing the institutions and structures of power that keep injustice in place.

Systemic Change – Working to change the culture, institutions, and structures of power in the community.

Movement Building – Building relationships and unity with other groups working on issues both similar and different from theirs. Work is not isolated; it is part of a larger struggle for change.

Root Cause – Underlying factor, failure, or fault, from which a chain of effects or failures originates.

Power Analysis – An exercise that examines who has power and who does not in community, the issues you are working on, and how you can organize to create change.

42 Seaverns Avenue, Boston, MA 02130
www.haymarket.org / 617-522-7676