

# THE KRESGE FOUNDATION

## **The Kresge Foundation Funding Opportunity in Memphis**

*“Collaborating to Expand Opportunity for Memphis Residents with Low Incomes”*

### **General Questions**

#### **What is the Kresge Foundation Funding Opportunity in Memphis?**

It is a funding opportunity open exclusively to non-profit organizations and local government agencies supporting the expansion of opportunities for residents with low incomes in the City of Memphis.

#### **Is this funding portal a one-time opportunity?**

While we do not have another funding opportunity beyond this planned yet, we will assess at the completion of this cycle whether or not we will do a second round. This is the first time that Kresge’s program and practice areas are collaborating on a funding opportunity specific to Memphis and thus, it is exploratory in nature. We plan to learn from this experience, which in turn will inform future funding strategies. Memphis-based organizations have previously been supported by Kresge via other methods, are still welcome to apply to any other funding opportunities that Kresge’s program areas open.

#### **What are the eligible uses of these grants?**

We will accept applications for program support for planning or implementation. In select cases, we will also provide general operating support in the areas of creative

placemaking, community development or human services. We will consider offering general operating support when:

- (1) The existing work of a nonprofit or civic organization is extremely aligned with Kresge's core mission of expanding opportunity for Memphis residents with low income;
- (2) There is evidence that the existing work is effective and inclusive;
- (3) There is more demand for existing services;
- (4) There is evidence that increased organizational capacity will allow the organization to meet this demand.

**What is the timeframe of the grants you plan to award?**

We will offer grants of up to two years.

**What range of funding will Kresge consider through this program?**

We will offer a majority of grants within the \$25,000 to \$150,000 range.

**How will applications be evaluated?**

Letters of inquiry will be reviewed by an internal coordinating team that includes representatives from nearly every Kresge program. Letters of inquiry will be evaluated based on their resonance with the approaches described in the request for letters of inquiry. In addition, strong letters of inquiry will exhibit the following characteristics:

- Focus on expanding opportunities for low-income Memphis residents;
- Emphasis on improving racial equity;
- Evidence of local community support;
- Clear articulation of goals and strategies;
- Collaboration with local partners involving multiple sectors;
- Orientation toward learning and continuous improvement.

We are more likely to make investments that:

- Are multi-disciplinary in approach;

- Draw on Kresge’s expertise in two or more of the following areas: community development, creative placemaking, health, higher education and human services;
- Have the potential to unlock additional investments or leverage existing investments from other funders.

We strongly recommend that you review the strategies on our web site of the program or programs that best match your proposed scope of work.

**Will you consider citywide projects or projects that span multiple neighborhoods?**

Yes – projects can range from the neighborhood scale to those that address citywide policies or initiatives.

## **Eligibility**

**What types of organizations are eligible to apply for funding?**

Kresge welcomes proposals from non-profit organizations and local government agencies that are leading mission-driven work in Memphis. A lead applicant may be any 501(c) (3) or a local government entity that is based in Memphis or has local presence.

The lead applicant may not be:

- An elementary or secondary school;
- A religious organization;
- A for-profit organization;
- An individual.

**Does my organization have to be headquartered in Memphis?**

No, but the organization must have a formal local presence with sufficient capacity on the ground to carry out intended goals and have sufficient community support and engagement.

**Can the applicant be fiscally sponsored?**

Yes, the lead organization may have a fiscal sponsor.

**Are existing Kresge grantees eligible to apply?**

Yes, existing grantees are eligible to apply.

**Will submitting a grant to this funding opportunity impede our ability to apply to Kresge for future initiatives?**

No.

**Can community organizations be included in more than one grant proposal?**

Each organization should only submit one Letter of Inquiry as the lead organization- however, organizations can be included as partners in proposals where other organizations are acting as the lead.

**May more than one organization collaborate to apply?**

Yes, we welcome collaborations between organizations, especially across sectors and disciplines.

**Does Kresge intend to provide any support to Memphis grantees beyond grants?**

Yes, we intend to invite Memphis grantees to participate in networks, learning and capacity-building opportunities during the grant period. We are currently developing our technical assistance strategies and will be able to share them by the time we make grant awards.

**When will grantees be notified of funding decisions?**

We intend to make final funding decisions by early June 2017.