

**THE CONSENSUS
COUNCIL, INC.**

Community Innovation Grant Information Packet

*THE CONSENSUS COUNCIL IS PROUD TO OFFER COMMUNITY
INNOVATION GRANTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE BUSH FOUNDATION*



**BUSH
FOUNDATION**

The Consensus Council, Inc.
1003 E INTERSTATE AVENUE, SUITE 7 | BISMARCK, ND 58503

How to Apply

The Consensus Council, Inc. accepts applications through our grant link at:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CIG2021R3>

Key Dates

The application will open on Thursday, September 2nd, 2021 at 8am and will close on Monday, October 4th, 2021 at 5pm. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Contacts

For questions about grant criteria and eligibility:

Ann Crews Melton, Executive Director

Email: amelton@agree.org

Phone: 701.224.0588 x101

For questions about accessing and navigating the grant portal:

Karla Buzick, Business Manager

Email: kbuzick@agree.org

Phone: 701.224.0588 x100

Community Innovation Grant Program Basics

- For grants over \$15,000, Community Innovation Grants are available directly from the [Bush Foundation](#).
- We look to you to identify and define your community. This could be a geographic community (e.g., a neighborhood, town, state or Native nation) and it could be a community of common interest or racial/cultural identity.
- We are open to projects that address all sorts of community needs. In addition, projects can be at various stages of the problem-solving process including identifying the need, increasing collective understanding of the issue, generating ideas, or testing and implementing solutions. Proposals can focus on one area or span multiple stages.
- The Consensus Council and the Bush Foundation are committed to addressing racial and economic disparities. At least 50% of Community Innovation grants will be given to projects that address these disparities. *For the purposes of this grant program, we define this as proposals that seek to actively reduce structural and/or systemic gaps in access, outcomes, opportunities or treatment based on race/ethnicity or economic standing.*
- We will favor/prioritize proposals with project budget sizes that are of appropriate scale to this \$500-\$15,000 grant opportunity.
- Consensus Council staff will work with grantees to agree on the appropriate grant period for their project. Timelines for the grants are flexible – some may take several months while others might take longer. As a general guideline, we prefer that projects be completed in 1 year or less. The project can be a phase of a multi-year initiative.

Community Innovation Grant Selection Criteria

There are countless promising projects happening throughout the state. We will use the following criteria and considerations to determine what proposals best fit our strategy as we make funding decisions:

Fit with Community Innovation Grant Program

Does the project use inclusive, collaborative and resourceful processes to pursue an innovative solution to a community challenge?

- ***Inclusive:*** *meaningfully engaging key stakeholders – thoughtfully identifying those needed to create the intended change and, whenever possible, including those directly affected by the problem.*
- ***Collaborative:*** *a true joint effort, with partners willing to share ownership and decision-making as they pursue an innovation together.*
- ***Resourceful:*** *using existing resources and assets creatively to make the most of what a community already has.*

Is the process likely to lead to a community innovation – a breakthrough in addressing a community need that is more effective, equitable or sustainable than existing approaches?

Implementation

- Is the project plan thoughtful, realistic and does it address the identified community need?
- Does the applicant have the capacity to execute the work effectively or have a plan to meet the needed capacity?

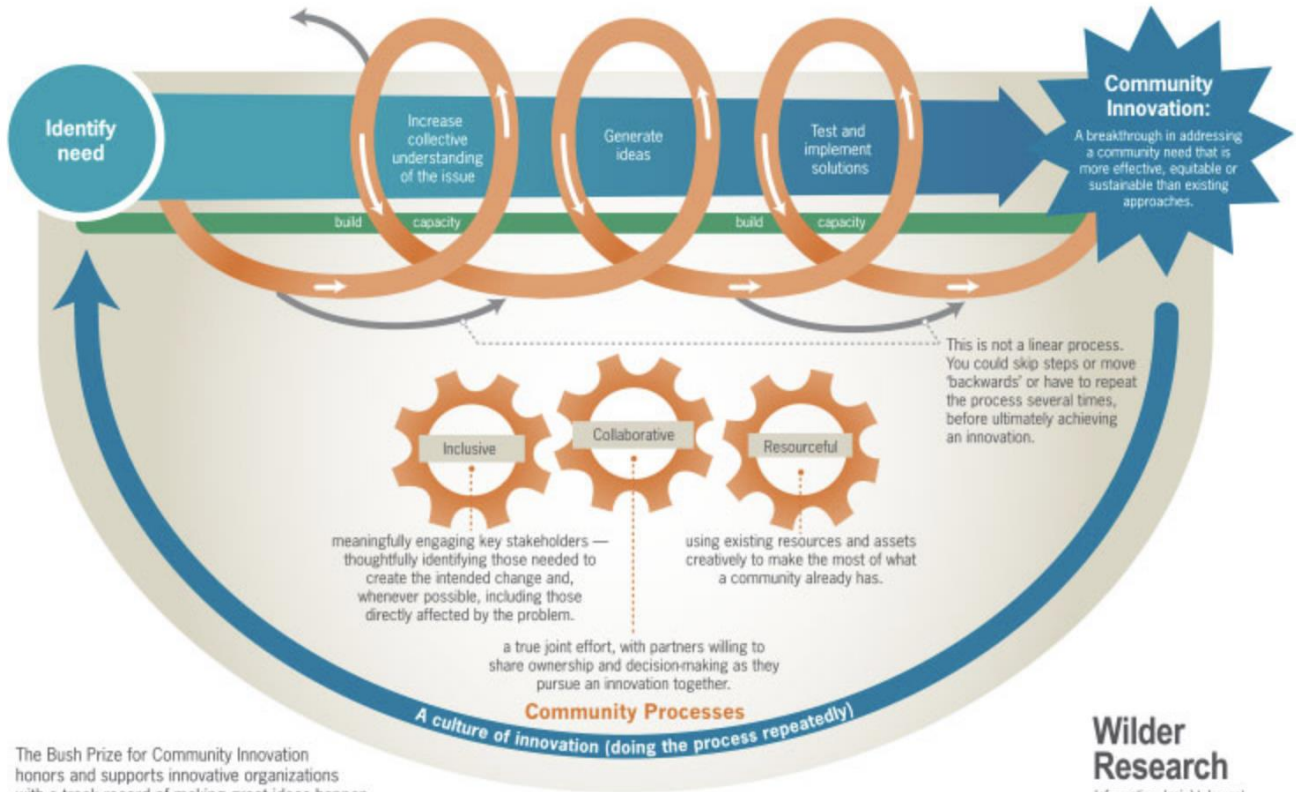
Impact

- Is the project likely to make a significant, sustainable difference, now or in the future?
- Will the project inspire or inform others?

The Consensus Council and the Bush Foundation are committed to addressing racial and economic disparities. At least 50% of Community Innovation grants will be to projects that address these disparities. *For the purposes of this grant program, we define this as proposals that seek to actively reduce structural and/or systemic gaps in access, outcomes, opportunities or treatment based on race/ethnicity or economic standing.*

Theory of Change

The Community Innovation Process



The Bush Prize for Community Innovation honors and supports innovative organizations with a track record of making great ideas happen.

Community Innovation Grants support communities to use problem-solving processes that lead to more effective, equitable and sustainable solutions.

Wilder Research

Information. Insight. Impact.

This theory of change was co-developed by Bush Foundation and Wilder Research.

Community Innovation Grant Eligibility

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

1. *Grants must be used for a charitable purpose.*
2. *Only organizations, not individuals, are eligible for the Community Innovation Grants. These organizations must be 501(c)(3) public charities or government entities (including schools). Groups of organizations (such as coalitions or collaborative groups) are eligible to apply, but only one organization may receive the grant.*
3. *The Consensus Council accepts Community Innovation Grant applications from fiscal sponsors. The fiscal sponsor organization must be the applicant organization and submit the grant application. Upon approval, the fiscal sponsor organization would become the grantee and receive the requested grant funds.*
4. *Grants must be used for projects located in North Dakota or the Native nations that share the same geography.*

Additional Considerations

We will seek a portfolio of Community Innovation grantees with balance across:

- Size of community
- Size of applicant organization
- Size of grant request
- Demographics of communities served
- Type of issue addressed

Narrative Questions

1. Amount of Funding Requested (*must be between \$500 - \$15,000*)
2. Project Title (*no more than 40 characters*)
3. Project Description
4. All projects must be completed in 12 months or less. Does your project meet this requirement?
5. Project Start Date
6. Project End Date
7. Identify other sources of income for this project, if any
8. Provide a brief description of the community issue or problem you want to address
9. Describe who will be involved in the process (*Who are the key stakeholders*)
10. Describe the steps involved in your problem-solving process
11. Describe who will benefit from your project (*Populations, Geography, etc.*)
12. Describe how you will measure the success of your project
13. Describe how you plan to sustain the community innovation that results from your proposed process into the future
14. Does your project seek to actively reduce structural and/or systemic gaps in access, outcomes or treatment based on race/ethnicity or economic standing? (*If so, please describe*)
15. Please add anything else of importance that we should know about you, your organization or your project

Project Budget Example Document

This is an example of a budget that you will need to upload in addition to your online grant application. You are required to complete this (or something similar) as part of your application.

Project Budget for the period of	
to	
PROJECT REVENUE	
Amount Requested from Consensus Council	
Other Foundations	
Government Grants & Contracts	
Individual contributions	
Fundraising events & products	
Membership income	
In-Kind support	
Other (specify)	
TOTAL PROJECT REVENUE	

PROJECT EXPENSES	
Salaries / Wages	
Consultants & Professional Fees	
Travel	
Equipment	
Supplies	
Training	
Printing & Copying	
Telephone / Fax	
Postage	
Rent & Utilities	
Other (specify)	
TOTAL PROJECT EXPENSES	

Send us the proposed **project budget only**, not your organization's total budget.

Please clearly indicate which line items will be funded with the Consensus Council grant if your project budget includes additional sources of support. You may create an additional column if needed.