

The [Samuel S. Fels Fund](#) identifies as a social justice funder with operations and programs connected to our [mission](#) and core values of trust, justice, accountability, and responsiveness. Here is the full [values statement](#).

During the transition year, we came to understand that words like *social justice*, *race equity*, and *movement building* hold different meanings for the organizations that use them, so we created a glossary of key terms and definitions for what Fels means when we use these terms. The glossary will be available on our website to be clearer and more transparent. Our definition of *movement building* is adopted from the Movement Strategy Center: “**the process of organizing and activating the will and capacity of people and organizations to work individually or collectively toward a shared vision.**” This definition is the foundation of our grant strategy.

## GRANT STRATEGY

**Moving forward, Fels Fund will provide three-year general support grants, for organizations engaged in two or more of the following movement building strategies:**

1. Advocating for policies and laws that lead to equitable treatment, economic stability, and opportunity.
2. Confronting and exposing harmful institutions and systems, and/or reimagining a world where policies, laws, institutions, and systems are *designed with and by* communities that are marginalized and/or historically excluded.
3. Promoting collective healing, and/or joy within and among communities that are marginalized and/or historically excluded.
4. Power-building activities such as organizing, political education, coalition building, base-building and/or collective action.

## GRANT AMOUNTS

- General support grants range from \$25,000-\$30,000 per year.
- An additional Leadership Development and Wellness grant of \$10,000 per year for each grantee partner.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

We added eligibility criteria to be clearer about what type of organization fits with the grant strategy.

### Current Criteria:

- Have a tax-exempt 501c3 designation *OR* a not-for-profit mission and use a fiscal sponsor or a parent organization that is a tax-exempt 501c3.
- Serve the city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

### Newly Added Criteria:

- Actively engaged in movement building and systems change work.
- Understand and acknowledge the racial history of the United States and Philadelphia.
- Have a racial and class analysis of the inequities that continue to harm communities served and use this analysis as grounding for the design of their work.

## KEY THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT OUR GRANT STRATEGY

- Moving forward, we will have **one funding stream, and one deadline, to yield one grantee partner cohort for a three-year grant term.**
- **The next grant cycle will open in Spring 2024** and then again in 2027. Please [sign up for the mailing list](#) to get updates from us.
- Since we are focusing on movement building strategies and systems change work, we will **no longer fund organizations that provide direct service only.** If you engage in direct service work *and* movement building strategies, you will still be eligible for funding.
- Applicants may apply for general support grants in the range of \$25,000-\$30,000 per year, totaling \$75,000-\$90,000 for the three-year grant term.

- In addition to the general support grant every grantee partner will receive an add-on grant for Leadership Development and Wellness for \$10,000 per year, totaling \$30,000 for the three-year grant term.

## STAY CONNECTED

The best way to stay connected is to [sign up for the mailing list](#), and receive updates directly to your inbox. Additionally, our [website](#) will be updated soon with all the grant strategy details.

In the new year, you will have an opportunity to connect with staff about the grant strategy, organizational fit, and our broader work to align with our values statement. If you have questions, contact us via email ([info@samfels.org](mailto:info@samfels.org)). Please note our office is closed from Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to responding to your emails in the new year.

Lastly, here is the [instant mood booster playlist](#) created by attendees from the sessions. Enjoy!