



The Overbrook Foundation

Program Guidelines

The Overbrook Foundation strives to improve the lives of people by supporting projects that protect human and civil rights, advance the self-sufficiency and well being of individuals and their communities and conserve the natural environment.

The Overbrook Foundation's strategic funding areas include: Human Rights and the Environment. The Foundation's approach to grantmaking recognizes that we live in a rapidly changing world where a great percentage of the population lacks the most basic rights and resources. The Foundation's major program areas are constant but specific issues within them may change according to the social and political climate.

The Foundation's Human Rights Program champions the human rights of marginalized groups - indigenous peoples, women, sexual and other minorities - in the U.S., Latin America and South Africa; supports organizations committed to holding the US Government to the highest human rights standards and supports the emerging domestic US human rights movement and/or the underlying progressive infrastructure that all US social justice organizations require to thrive and pursue their missions

The Foundation's Environment Program supports organizations working to develop better consumption and production habits in the United States and in Latin America (currently Brazil, Mexico and Ecuador only). In Latin America the primary objective is to conserve the planet's dwindling biodiversity.

In both program areas, the Foundation supports projects both domestically and in Latin America and South Africa). Generally speaking, the Foundation's domestic programs target support for policy development, advocacy, coalition building, research, legal and other strategies likely to impact large classes of people or shape issues important to the Foundation's mission.

If your proposed project meets these specific criteria, please visit our website at www.overbrook.org and click on the "How to Apply" button. Follow the directions to confirm that you meet the Foundation's Eligibility Requirements. You will be asked to compose a letter of inquiry (no more than two pages in length) via e-mail that provides a brief summary of the proposal and its relevance to the Foundation's programs.

A program staff person will review your letter and determine if and how your project fits into the Foundation's grant making program. If a full proposal is warranted, we will provide you with additional information and deadlines for its submission. If your project does not meet our objectives, we will send you a letter with that information.

The Foundation does not make grants to individuals and rarely for endowments, building campaigns, deficit financing or religious purposes. Grants are not made for debt reduction or to fund benefit events. Funding for conferences, publications and media is limited to projects directly related to priorities in the Foundation's program areas.

The Foundation makes grants only to organizations that meet Internal Revenue Code requirements as nonprofit, tax-exempt organizations or to qualified governmental units or agencies. Grant funds may not be used to participate in or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office or to conduct, directly or indirectly, any voter registration drive (within the meaning of Section 4945(d)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code).

The Board of Directors meets three times annually to review proposals, and grant applications are accepted throughout the year.

-- Revised January 10, 2008