



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 & Civil Rights, Youth 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 & Civil Rights Program is multifaceted and provides support to the following: reproductive health rights; domestic criminal system reform efforts; lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights; gun violence prevention and international human rights. An emphasis is placed on work that protects the rights of children and women.

The goal of the Foundation's Youth Program is to provide low-income adolescents and young adults with opportunities to develop leadership skills, practice active citizenship, and foster creativity. The Foundation supports programs that include a direct services component and/or leadership development activities that encourage collective action and advocacy, promote systemic social change, and build communication skills in young people.

We look to support organizations that demonstrate an active, consensus-driven form of management in which young people are among the decision-makers and leaders. These programs can be either school-based or operating as independent not-for-profit organizations.

The Foundation will also consider organizations that advance the field of youth development through public policy and advocacy programs, capacity building initiatives, strategic collaborations or the promotion and replication of best practices.

In both the Human & Civil Rights Program and the Youth Program, the Foundation recognizes the importance of funding organizations working on issues related to HIV/AIDS.

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 all Program areas, the Foundation supports projects both domestically and internationally (with a particular focus 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. In its international funding, the Foundation also supports organizations providing direct services to clients.

If your proposed project meets these specific criteria, please send a letter or email (no longer than one or two pages in length) that provides a brief summary of the proposal and its relevance to the Foundation's programs. The Foundation does not accept submission by fax.

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 four times annually to review proposals, and grant applications are accepted throughout the year.