



**Long Island Unity Fund**  
Invitation only Request for Proposals  
February 2025

**OVERVIEW**

The Long Island Unity Fund (LIUF), a donor collaborative fund at The Trust, was established in 2020 to bolster Long Island’s social justice/civic leadership; build the necessary relationships, local infrastructure, and skills to secure regional progress; and buttress Long Island’s growing state and national influence through community-led grantmaking. The Fund provides a platform for leadership by a group of regional Long Island leaders working across multiple issues; these leaders guide a participatory grantmaking process aimed at strengthening community organizing infrastructure and capacity on Long Island. The Fund supports grassroots initiatives that:

- Build community organizing infrastructure;
- Develop local leadership;
- Strengthen organizational capacity;
- Provide opportunities for shared learning, collaboration, and collective action.

The Long Island Unity Fund invests in leaders, organizations, and movements by shifting resources to the people building power who are simultaneously most affected by unjust policies and practices on Long Island. Funding decisions are guided by donor partners who have contributed to the Fund.

The Long Island Unity Fund now invites proposals from Long Island organizations that have led program development and grantmaking strategies for the Good Neighbor Initiative. The following organizations are invited to apply:

- Gender Equality New York
- LI Jobs with Justice
- Padoquohan Medicine Lodge
- STRONG Youth
- Women’s Diversity Network

**SUBMISSION MATERIALS**

In a single PDF (no larger than 25 MB and all pages typed using a minimum of 12pt font, single spaced), combine the following materials:

1. A list of your board of directors, including professional affiliations. The Trust – Long Island prefers that a board should have at least five members; all board

members should be unrelated, and no more than one board member should be paid (typically the paid staff head).

2. Proposal Narrative. Please provide thoughtful and thorough answers to the following questions that extend beyond a single sentence, ensuring clarity and completeness:
  - a) What lessons have you learned since the Peer Group formally launched *We are Long Island*, the organizing hub, and its first grantmaking strategy?
  - b) What, if any, benefits did you encounter from participation in the LIUF this year and what challenges did you encounter, and how were they resolved?
  - c) How is the work you've done together supporting progress towards the Long Island Unity Fund's mission, principles, and/or long-term outcomes?
  - d) How is your participation in LIUF informing and supporting your organizational and collective work?
  - e) Please feel free to add any additional comments.
3. Your current year annual operating budget. You do not need to submit a Form 990/Financial Audit unless requested.

## **SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Assemble and merge items 1 – 3 (listed above) into a single PDF. Name it in the following format: "*Applicant Organization Name.pdf*"
2. Complete a [Long Island Unity Fund \(Invitation Only\) Cover Sheet](#) and upload your single PDF.
3. Once uploaded, check the certification box at the end of the cover sheet and click submit. You will get an email confirming the proposal has been received. This email will include—as a PDF attachment—the Cover Sheet you just completed. The email will be sent to the email address entered in the "Information about Person Completing this Form" field on the Proposal Cover Sheet.

All applications must be submitted electronically through The New York Community Trust's Grantseeker Portal no later than 11:59 pm ET on ~~Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup>~~. Please contact Sol Marie Alfonso-Jones, Senior Program Director at [sjones@thenytrust.org](mailto:sjones@thenytrust.org) with any questions.

**The deadline has been extended to Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>.**