



# North Star Fund

## Introduction to Progressive Funders in New York City

This list is meant to provide an introduction to progressive funders in New York City. It is only a starting point. The North Star Fund is not specifically referring you to any of these foundations. It is likely that many of them may not be appropriate for your organization. We strongly recommend that you do additional research on each foundation to learn more about their funding criteria and deadlines.

**Good luck!**

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**The New York Regional Association of Grantmakers and the Foundation Center also operate websites containing resources useful for researching additional sources of funding. Please take the time to explore each.**

### **New York Regional Association of Grantmakers (NYRAG)**

<http://www.nyrag.org>

A great place to streamline your research time. The NYRAG website has the most up-to-date list of funders who accept the New York/New Jersey Common Application Form. The list includes links to the foundations with a website. NYRAG also offers a number of resources that can be used by grant seekers, including the New York/New Jersey Common Application and Report Forms, NYRAG publications, NYRAGTimes and the Membership Directory. As well as links to professional development organizations for grantseekers.

### **The Foundation Center**

<http://www.fdncenter.org>

Their mission is to support and improve institutional philanthropy by promoting public understanding of the field and helping grant seekers succeed. To achieve their mission, they collect, organize, and communicate information on US philanthropy; conduct and facilitate research on trends in the field; provide education and training on the grantseeking process; ensure public access to information and services through their website, print and electronic publications, five library/learning centers, and a national network of cooperating collections.

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*The following is a list of a few progressive funders (in alphabetical order).*

### **Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice**

<http://www.astraea.org>

They support lesbian-led LGBTI and progressive organizations on a global scale. Formerly known as Astrea National Lesbian Action Foundation, Astraea supports social, racial and economic justice in the U.S. and internationally. Their grantmaking and philanthropic advocacy programs help lesbians and allied communities challenge oppression and claim their human rights. Their commitment to end discrimination and oppression includes issues of race, age, sex,

religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic exploitation, physical and mental ability, anti-Semitism, and other factors.

### **Child Welfare Fund**

<http://www.nypn.org/htm/Members/cwf/index.html>

They assist organizations that help poor children and families. The Fund's primary focus is to support projects primarily in NYC that give people affected by the child welfare system increased influence and control over that system.

### **Cricket Island Foundation**

<http://www.cricketisland.org>

They are a family foundation representing three generations, dedicated to advancing the field of youth development. They seek programs and organizations that encourage youth to expand their perspective, initiate collaboration, develop leadership and foster creativity and adaptability. Their desired outcome is connected, compassionate young people of high self esteem who practice active citizenship and value diversity, intergenerational ties and social responsibility.

### **The Funding Exchange**

<http://www.fex.org>

They are a network of 15 community funds across the country and a national office with its own grantmaking program located in NYC. They administer a national donor-advised program as well as the following activist-advised funds: the Saguaro Fund which supports organizations that primarily serve communities of color; the OUT Fund for Lesbian and Gay Liberation which supports radical organizing projects working to build community among lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgender people; the Paul Robeson Fund for Independent Media; the Ignacio Martín-Baró Fund for Mental Health and Human Rights; and the Emergency Fund.

### **Fund for the City of New York**

<http://www.fcny.org>

They are private operating foundation launched by the Ford Foundation in 1968 with the mandate to improve the quality of life for all New Yorkers. Through centers on youth, government and technology as well as core organizational assistance, the Fund introduces and helps to implement innovations in policy, programs, practice and technology in order to advance the functioning of government and nonprofit organizations in NYC and beyond.

### **The Edward W. Hazen Foundation**

<http://www.hazenfoundation.org>

They support the work of community-based and grassroots organizations in the following areas of programming: 1) parent and community organizing initiatives that foster equity and improved student achievement, 2) advocacy efforts that have the potential to effect change in educational policies and practices that enhance equity and accountability, 3) training and leadership building initiatives that provide parents in low-income communities with knowledge, skills and opportunities to participate in meaningful decision-making at the school and district levels, and 4) youth development with a focus on youth organizing and leadership development around concrete social issues that are important to young people and the larger community.

### **The Independence Community Foundation**

<http://www.icfny.org>

The primary mission of The Independence Community Foundation is to help renew neighborhoods by promoting economic growth, educational attainment and housing development. They have established the following program priorities: neighborhood renewal, education, community quality for life, and culture & the arts.

### **Jeht Foundation**

[www.jehtfoundation.org/](http://www.jehtfoundation.org/)

Founded in 2000, Jeht, which stands for Justice, Equality, Human dignity and Tolerance is interested in programs supporting the following initiatives: transforming U.S. criminal justice, expanding international justice and democratizing the U.S electoral process.

### **Jewish Fund for Justice**

<http://www.jfjustice.org>

The purpose of their grantmaking program is to support non-profit organizations working to alleviate the root causes of poverty and the systemic disenfranchisement of low-income people in the US. JFJ supports community-based organizing and advocacy that promotes leadership development and builds community self-sufficiency to strengthen the impact of low-income people in the public debate on issues affecting their lives.

### **Merck Family Fund**

<http://www.merckff.org>

The goals of their grantmaking are to 1) restore and protect the natural environment and ensure a healthy planet for generations to come and 2) strengthen the social fabric and the physical landscape of the urban community.

### **Ms. Foundation for Women**

<http://www.ms.foundation.org/>

The Ms. Foundation supports the efforts of women and girls to govern their own lives and influence the world around them. Through its leadership, expertise and financial support, they champion an equitable society by effecting change in public consciousness, law, philanthropy and social policy. Their areas of focus include economic security, health and safety, girls, young women and leadership,

### **New York Community Trust**

<http://www.nycommunitytrust.org>

They manage more than 1,300 charitable funds -- each established by an individual, family, or business. The Trust administers assets of more than \$1.7 billion. They invest the principal and distribute the income to support an array of programs that benefit communities, including those that meet needs not imagined when the funds were created.

### **New York Foundation**

<http://www.nyf.org>

Those applications that stand the best chance of receiving a grant from the New York Foundation involve NYC or a particular neighborhood, emphasize advocacy and community organizing, address a critical need of a disadvantaged population (particularly youth or the elderly) are strongly identified with a particular community, require an amount of funding to

which a grant would make a substantial contribution, and show a clear role for the foundation's funds.

### **New York Foundation for the Arts**

<http://www.nyfa.org>

NYFA serves individual artists, promotes their freedom to develop and create, and provides the broader public with opportunities to experience and understand their work. They do this by offering financial and informational assistance to artists and organizations that directly serve artists, by supporting arts programming in the larger community, and by building collaborative relationships with others who advocate for the arts in NYS and throughout the country.

### **The New York Women's Foundation**

<http://www.nywf.org>

They seek to fund programs within the five boroughs of NYC that contribute to moving low-income women and girls towards economic self-sufficiency and self-reliance.

### **New World Foundation**

This foundation spans five decades and comes out of the Civil Rights Era. They fund organizations supporting democracy and justice, peace and freedom, liberty and equality, solidarity and community, respect for each other, respect for nature and the earth. They favor general support grants over funding specific projects and commit to funding organizations for several years. Maintenance, Initiative and Inquiry grants are usually used to support anchor organizations, supplement ongoing work and start-up organizations respectively. They also provide smaller grants for emergencies, travel, and other discretionary grants.

### **The Norman Foundation**

<http://www.normanfdn.org/guidelines.html>

They seek to fund projects which promote community-based economic development efforts that try out new ownership structures and financing mechanisms, work to prevent the disposal of toxins in communities and to link environmental issues with economic and social justice, promote civil rights by fighting discrimination and violence, and work to bring about equity.

### **Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation**

<http://www.noyes.org>

This foundation is committed to protecting and restoring the earth's natural systems and promoting a sustainable society by strengthening individuals, institutions and communities pledged to pursuing those goals. They make grants primarily in the areas of the environment and reproductive rights.

### **Open Society Institute**

<http://www.soros.org>

OSI was established in 1993 to promote the development and maintenance of open societies around the world. They do this by supporting an array of activities dealing with educational, social, legal, and health care reform, and by encouraging alternative approaches to complex and controversial issues. Based in NYC, OSI is a private operating and grantmaking foundation. Their activities include network programs, US programs, and other initiatives. OSI assists other organizations in the Soros Foundation's network by providing administrative, financial, and

technical support.

### **Overbrook Foundation**

<http://www.overbrook.org>

Their grant components include youth development, environmental protection and human rights and civil right advocacy. They support a wide range domestic projects and international direct-service initiatives. International work focuses in Latin America and South Africa.

### **Proteus Fund**

<http://www.proteusfund.org/>

This public foundation funds programs under multiple initiatives like the Piper Fund, the State Strategies Fund, the Media Action Fund, the Security Policy Working Group, their own nonprofit Proteus Action League. They fund efforts to expand access to our democracy with the goal of building and strengthening the social justice movement. Proteus also provides management and consulting services to donors, family and private foundations.

### **The Resist Foundation**

<http://www.resistinc.org>

The Resist Foundation is a national foundation and a political organization committed to radical social change. The activist groups that are funded reflect their goal of an equitable distribution of wealth and power. They are groups with small budgets who struggle towards a broad vision of social justice, while continuing to oppose political and institutional oppression.

### **The Scherman Foundation**

<http://www.scherman.org>

The main areas of interest of this foundation are the environment, disarmament and peace, reproductive rights and family planning, human rights and liberties, and the arts and social welfare. In the last two areas in particular, priority is given to organizations in NYC.

### **Sister Fund**

<http://www.sisterfund.org>

They see social work and spiritual vitality as one supporting community programs, including those that are faith-based programs empowering women, programs transforming social, economic, political and religious institutional injustice against women, efforts to expand liberative women's theologies and other activities giving women and girls a voice.

### **Surdna Foundation**

<http://www.surdna.org/>

They seek to prevent irreversible damage to the environment by funding four focus areas: Biological Diversity and the Human Communities Which Depend On It; Realigning Human and Natural Systems; Transportation and Urban/Suburban Land Use; and Energy. Principles encouraging dialogue of diverse participants, multi-sectoral approaches and an informed active public guides their grantmaking decisions.

### **Stonewall Community Foundation**

<http://www.stonewallfoundation.org>

They accept applications from any organization (with a 501(c)3 or with a fiscal sponsor) that serves the needs of the LGBT community in the 5 boroughs of New York.

**Third Wave Foundation**

<http://thirdwavefoundation.org>

They fund efforts to foster female leadership by redress discrimination against women. Grants are directed towards reproductive rights and organizing and advocacy. Funds are also distributed through a scholarship program. In addition, other work promoting leadership include public educational campaigns and national networking between women led groups.

**Twenty-First Century Fund**

<http://www.21cf.org>

They make grants in two primary areas. Their Black community initiative focuses on groups that do organizing, leadership development, advocacy, policy and citizen participation strategies to empower African American and low-income communities. Their grants for youth education and development support organizing, leadership training, school reform, entrepreneurship, advocacy, policy and parent initiatives to expand the educational and life opportunities of African American children and youth.

**Union Square Award**

<http://www.fcny.org/unionsquareawards>

Their awards recognize projects that have made notable contributions to the educational, economic and cultural life of NYC. They honor individuals who have initiated and developed organizations in the fields of homelessness and hunger; HIV/AIDS prevention, education and treatment; conflict resolution; economic self-sufficiency; and youth/family development. They seek to encourage activism as a means of strengthening communities throughout NYC.