



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Post-Election Grants: Strengthening the Campus Community

Advancing student interfaith and bridgebuilding work beyond the 2024 election

Opportunity

In the weeks and months following the 2024 election, it is more important than ever to cultivate, support, and empower student leadership on campuses across the country. The divisive nature of the election season highlighted the ongoing tensions in our civic life and within our campus communities. Following the election, there is an opportunity for leadership on campuses that brings people together on issues of common concern.

Interfaith America's Strengthening the Campus Community grants are intended to support projects that bring together a diverse group of students in order to bridge meaningful divides on their campus or between students on campus and their local community. Strong applications will include activities, programs, groups, or events that leverage interfaith and bridgebuilding skills for concrete and meaningful actions in post-election America. These initiatives should also be focused on engaging undergraduate students. As we move into the period after the election, we hope these grants will fund projects that respond to meaningful needs on campuses as they seek to unite a diverse range of perspectives.

Grant Overview

This grant seeks projects that:

- respond, in a positive, engaging, and swift way to the atmosphere on their campus in the aftermath of the 2024 election.
- utilize interfaith skills and knowledge to mobilize or connect with a diverse—including religiously and politically diverse—group of students and campus community members.
- engage undergraduate students directly and/or support student leaders or student leadership.

As part of your project, we strongly recommend that involved students complete the online courses [Foundations of Interfaith Leadership](#) and [We Can Build Bridges](#). These online, self-paced courses provide a foundation of interfaith leadership and bridgebuilding skills and can provide a gateway to needed interfaith skills during this time.



Other resources that might be helpful as you plan your projects, include the Listening Skills module from our [Bridging the Gap curriculum](#), the [Shared Values Facilitation Guide](#), and the short film [Differences: A Student's Story](#).

If applicants intend to take advantage of one or more of these resources, they should include their plans to do so in their project proposal in the grant application.

Grant projects and activities should be completed by April 30, 2025.

Grant amounts will be based on the goals of the proposed project and stated budget request of the applicant, with a maximum amount of \$5,000. Applications will be assessed on a rolling basis until the close of the application period on January 31 or until all funds are allocated, whichever comes first. Funds will be awarded to the college or university upon completion of all required financial forms by awardee.

Grant Requirements

Eligibility

Only students, staff, faculty, and administrators at colleges and universities in the United States may apply for this grant. The grant is not eligible for organizations, institutions, or individuals located outside of the United States.

Student involvement is central to these grant projects and all projects must encourage significant student participation to be considered.

Funding Information

- Grants may be awarded up to a sum of \$5,000.
- Applicants should be prepared to request a specific amount of \$5,000 or less in their application. A detailed budget is not required, but grantees should indicate how the requested funds will be used.
- Grant funds are intended for the direct purposes of the proposed project and are intended to achieve the stated deliverables and outputs of the project.
- We are amenable to grantees using up to 10% of disbursed grant funds for operational costs if needed.
- Funds will be disbursed to the college/university of the applicant.
- The grantee is responsible for understanding and navigating their institutional or organizational grant processes.
- Those who receive funding may receive a 1099 tax form at the end of the year.

Restrictions

Grant funds may not be used for:

- Alcohol
- Expenses associated with political campaign activities, including directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition

to) any candidate for elective public office; making contributions to political campaigns; or attempting to influence legislation (i.e., lobbying).

- Capital funds or expenses (e.g., endowments, capital campaigns, annual funds, tuition, or student fees).
- While not restricted, we generally don't fund grantees to use a large portion of their funds for Interfaith America's fee-for-service offerings, such as campus consultations or speaking engagement fees.

Deliverables

- Participation in one advising call with Interfaith America staff member during the grant period.
- Submission of any media material (i.e. news articles, university media mentions, etc.) concerning the project and/or any significant created resources or tools related to the project.
- Complete a Final Report, sent by IA, summarizing the achievements of grant project and sharing the number and type of participants engaged (students, staff, faculty, alumni, community members, etc.).

Proposal Review & Selection

Through its grant programs, Interfaith America is committed to supporting initiatives that meaningfully engage people with a range of religious, philosophical, or ideological perspectives as well as diverse racial and ethnic identities.

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. The application period will remain open until January 31 or until all funds are allocated, whichever comes first. Applications will be reviewed and selection decisions communicated within 10-14 business days of submission.

Applications will be reviewed for awards based upon the criteria outlined in the Grant Overview section.

The application can be found here: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8075994/Strengthening-the-Campus-Community-Grant>

Program Timeline

- November 5, 2024: Interfaith America will begin accepting and reviewing applications. Selection decisions will be communicated as applications are reviewed.
- January 31, 2025: Applications will not be accepted past this date, though applications may close earlier if a sufficient number of proposals have been selected.
- April 30, 2025: Projects must be completed.
- May 31, 2025: Final reports due.



For further information, please contact Carr Harkrader, charkrader@interfaithamerica.org.

Project Examples

Projects for this grant can take a range of forms; indeed, we encourage you to think first of what would most benefit your campus in the months after the election. We encourage projects that can swiftly and meaningfully address the needs of your campus community and engage a wide range of diverse communities on your campus.

Examples of this could include, but are not limited to:

- Student interfaith groups leading a campus-wide service project involving multiple religious and/or political groups.
- Organized media campaign involving students from across the university stating their shared values.
- A campus-community project involving students working with a local nonprofit or community group that brings together community members of different religious or political backgrounds.