



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

We Are The Potluck Grant

"Meeting this moment requires that we move beyond false choices — between justice and relationship, between advocacy and service — and instead invest in approaches that hold these together. Bridgebuilding alone is not the answer to every challenge. But without it, our ability to address those challenges together becomes far more limited."

["Building Bridges in a Time of Division: More Than a Necessity, a Path Forward"](#) article, written by Interfaith America staff

Opportunity

Interfaith America has two decades of experience as a partner to hundreds of colleges and universities across the country with a range of affiliations, including public, nonsectarian, and religious. Throughout American history, campuses have incubated social change and shaped leaders. We agree and believe that campuses are sites for research and scholarship, community engagement, encountering deep differences, and building habits of civic leadership. We believe this is done through equipping leaders to embrace the power of pluralism. When students are shaped into leaders who leave campuses equipped with the skills and desire to engage people with a wide range of perspectives, worldviews, and identities, our diverse democracy flourishes.

The ***We Are The Potluck*** grant supports Interfaith America's mission to activate and equip leaders to embrace pluralism by positively engaging with students and educators from diverse worldviews, identities, and political beliefs. This grant employs a unique approach, emphasizing proactive relationship-building rather than conventional dialogue, while incorporating shared meals and collaborative service projects. Grantees will help their communities practice skills in pluralism, share their narratives, and ultimately transform the campus environment to prioritize pluralism.

Program Overview

Selected grantees will recruit a cohort of 12-20 religiously, ethically, and politically diverse students to participate in a program that consists of a series of cohort dinners with intentional opportunities for students to connect across differences and build relationships, and participate in a service project, which will also be open to the larger campus community as well.

Throughout the program, students will engage in various discussions that will include local, state, and national elections as well as other civic topics that will give students real chances to practice their pluralism skills. At the end of the academic year, the student cohort will decide on a service project to support a value-aligned issue. Campus cohort leaders (grantees) are



encouraged to make the service project a campus-wide event and expect students to invite others.

Grantees will receive a toolkit with resources to help them plan their program. Interfaith America staff will be available for check-ins and to connect grantees across campuses to share ideas and build relationships with peers.

Program Requirements

Eligibility

The ***We Are The Potluck*** grant is open to any student-facing campus professional who attended the 2026 Interfaith Leadership Summit and participated in one of the following educator tracks:

- Evolving the Institutional Landscape
- Teaching Across Difference: Faculty Leadership in the Classroom and Beyond
- Empowering Students to be Leaders of Pluralism
- Campus Culture Starts with Me: Systems and Structures to Hold the Complexities of Pluralism

Interested campus professionals will submit the following as part of their online application:

- Demographic information
- Brief paragraph focused on their interest and commitment to pluralism and bridgebuilding
- A description and draft timeline of planned events for the 2026–2027 academic year, including the preferred date for a potential campus visit from IA staff. IA will cover all campus visit expenses, so those costs will not come from your grant money.
- Agreement to fulfill all program requirements including participation in grantee calls with IA staff

Funding Information

- A \$5,000 grant will be provided to selected grantees by October 1st.
- Funds must be used for dinner expenses, travel to/from service project, any potential stipends for student participation, and any other purposes that directly support the grant proposal.
- The grantee is responsible for understanding and navigating their institutional or organizational grant processes.
- Grantees are expected to utilize awarded funds within the designated grant implementation period. If a grantee anticipates that they will be unable to expend the full amount within this timeframe in alignment with the scope of work outlined in the MOA, they must proactively consult with Interfaith America staff to determine appropriate next steps.

- Some forms of payment, such as stipends and reimbursements, may be considered taxable income by the IRS. Participants are responsible for understanding and reporting any income they receive. Those who receive funding may receive a 1099 tax form from Interfaith America at the end of the year. This information does not constitute legal or tax advice. For questions about your specific situation, we recommend consulting a tax professional.

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

Throughout the implementation of the ***We Are The Potluck*** grant, each grantee (campus cohort leader) is required to:

- Select a cohort of 12-20 students representing a range of worldview identities and political beliefs.
- Organize four dinners (1 prior to the November elections, 3 in the spring semester)
- Organize one service event with the student cohort with an invitation to the broader campus community before the grant period ends.
- Attend virtual meetings with IA staff and grantees; one in the fall semester and one in the spring semester.
- Participate, as requested, in a narrative project highlighting your project; examples could include speaking on a panel at the Summit, hosting IA staff on campus, showcasing your work on social media, and sharing your story for Interfaith America Magazine, etc. We ask that grantees make two social media posts per semester with a collaboration tag to Interfaith America.
- Submit Final Report sent by IA (Due May 28, 2027)



Proposal Review & Selection

Through its 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. As such, a diverse cohort of 10 grantees representing colleges and universities, both public and private, across the nation, will be selected to participate in the We are the Potluck grant.

The selection committee, comprised of IA staff members of diverse identities and perspectives, will convene to review applications and make final selections.

Program Timeline

- August 7, 2026: The application period is open.
- August 28, 2026: The application period is closed.
- September 9, 2026: Selection decisions communicated to applicants.
- October 1, 2026: Grant implementation period begins.
- May 28, 2027: Grantees will provide a final report on their projects; grant implementation period concludes.

For further information, please contact Joey Haynes at jhaynes@interfaithamerica.org

Additional Resources

- [Guide for Applying to Interfaith American Grants and Fellowships](#)
- [Invitation to explore Staff or Chaplain LAB Pathway](#)