Trans programming at HRFN FUNDING FESTIVAL

Findings from the Global Resources Report (GRR)

Excluding funds focused on the USA, in 2019-2020, $28.9 million (12%) of global LGBTI funding was awarded for trans populations. This reflected an increase from the previous two-year period.

The World View of Trans Funding 2019 – 2020

Preliminary findings from The State of Trans Organizing

- 58% provided emergency assistance to trans individuals in times of socio-political unrest and/or humanitarian crises (for example, pandemic response, war, forced migration, or food crises).
- 76% experienced threats to community members related to being trans.
- 53% experienced threats to trans leadership.
- 67% responded to external threats from oppositional groups or individuals (e.g., "anti-gender," "gender critical," or others).

*The full report will be published in September 2024

Tools for Trans Inclusive Grantmakers

Toolkit includes:

- Responses to Common Myths and Disinformation
- How Can I Know if an Organization is Actually Anti-Trans?
- Grantmakers Case Studies: Trans Inclusion in Policy & Practice
- Recommendations for Due Diligence
- Scenarios: What Would You Do?
- Peer-to-Peer Advice

*Email info@globalphilanthropyproject.org for the toolkit
Recommendations for due diligence in grantee evaluation

1. Hire people who have strong, active movement relationships.
2. Reach out to advisors and peer funders for support in your evaluation.
3. Research existing and potential grantee organizations’ social media and communications materials online.

Learn from trans advisors and trans-led grantees about complexities within trans movements.

Grantmakers shared a number of comments acknowledging that the trans community is not monolithic, and that there is great diversity in the issues facing trans individuals and communities and in the strategic responses developed by those communities. For instance, trans women and others who are transfeminine face a specific set of stereotypes, heightened scrutiny, and discrimination which are sometimes referred to as transmisogyny. This specific, often subconscious, bias can also play out inside of trans organizations as well as within grantmaking spaces.

It is also possible that a trans-led group may hold some exclusionary positions on who is or is not included in their definition of trans. One feminist grantmaker spoke of a trans group who only included trans individuals whose transition had included surgery. She explained:

“That [position] is not a match for our views as a funder, which are so centered in a feminist commitment to self-determination, deciding for ourselves about our own bodies. We have also had women’s rights groups apply to us with what we consider to be politics not aligned with feminism, and we also don’t fund that kind of group. Not every group led by women, trans people, or intersex people is going to be a match for us. Is there a political alignment? If not, we’re not saying it isn’t valuable, but it’s not a group we will fund.”

Build and deepen relationships with those close to the work and knowledgeable of internal community dynamics to ensure that your grantmaking is a strengthening resource for the specific communities you support, and the political and cultural ecosystems they are organizing in.

“Community is the #1 way of getting proper due diligence.”

“Do due diligence in researching potential grantees about this issue and other exclusionary positions. Every time you make a choice to fund someone, you are also not funding someone.”

*Taken from the Toolkit for Trans-Inclusive Grant-makers*