

# Fund for Racial Equity Summer 2024 Grant Opportunity

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the Fund for Racial Equity and why does it exist?

It is well established that racial disparities are the greatest roadblock to achieving social and economic opportunity and health and well-being for all residents. By fighting against racial injustice, we create a better city for all Alexandrians. The Fund for Racial Equity was created with this in mind and is dedicated to supporting efforts that dismantle systemic racism and advance racial equity in the city of Alexandria. Fund for Racial Equity grantmaking is guided by a Community Advisory Board.

### What is racial inequity?

Racial inequity exists when a person's racial identity predicts their life outcomes. Racial inequities are reflected in social, cultural, political and historical conditions that produce different outcomes across racial groups. Racial inequities are revealed by disproportionality in education (high school graduation rates), jobs (unemployment rate), criminal justice (arrest and incarceration rates), life expectancy, and every other indicator of success. Use the following link for more [definitions related to race and social equity](#)\*.

### What is systemic racism?

This is an interconnected and reciprocal relationship between the individual, institutional and structural levels which function as a system of racism. These various levels of racism operate together in a lockstep model and function together as a complete system. These levels are:

- Individual (within interactions between people)
- Institutional (within institutions and systems of power)
- Structural or societal (among institutions and across society)

\* <https://www.alexandriava.gov/equity/race-and-social-equity-definitions>



## **This Grant Opportunity**

### What is the purpose of these grants?

These grants aim to support advances in racial equity in the city of Alexandria, with particular attention to gains in the areas of child welfare, education, health, and housing.

### What are the funding priorities?

The Community Advisory Board will prioritize impact within the grant emphasis areas, efforts that center equity in carrying out grant activities, and efforts that build agency for those most impacted by structural racism.

### What types of programs can the grant support?

The grants are being provided by ACT's Fund for Racial Equity with a focus on making equitable gains in the areas of housing, education, health or child welfare. Any programs impacting these areas may be considered for this grant.

### Who can apply for this grant?

Individual residents and nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply for funding. Individuals are allowed to apply for funding regardless of their racial identity and you do not have to live in Alexandria. We welcome applications for those 16 or over, however, those under the age of 18 will need parent/guardian permission.

### What is the timeline for grant award decisions?

Grant award decisions are anticipated by late September 2024.

### What is the maximum grant amount and grant duration?

The maximum grant award is \$2,000. The grant period will be one year from the date of grant award receipt.

### Are grant funds considered taxable income?

Yes, grant awards are considered taxable income. Award amounts will be guided by ACT for Alexandria's allowable expenditures as a Community Foundation.

### Do I have to show receipts to show how I spent the money?

No, receipts will not be needed. ACT for Alexandria staff and Fund for Racial Equity Community Advisory Board members will work with you to determine how best to assess your effort (successes and otherwise).



## Applying for the Grant

### How do I apply?

Visit the ACT for Alexandria Fund for Racial Equity [webpage](#)\*\* to access an application in your preferred language. Paper applications may also be picked up at the ACT for Alexandria office (in ALX Community Waterfront Building, 201 N. Union St. Suite 110, Alexandria, Virginia 22314) during normal business hours (9am-5pm, M-F). Applications can be typed or handwritten in your preferred language and will be accepted electronically or in print as follows:

- Electronically: Download and save the application from the webpage. Once you have completed and signed the application, email it to [grants@actforalexandria.org](mailto:grants@actforalexandria.org). Please make sure to save your work often.
- Paper applications: Paper applications may be mailed to ACT for Alexandria offices (201 N. Union St., Suite 110, Alexandria, Virginia 22314) or dropped off during normal business hours (9am-5pm, M-F).

In addition, in-person application support will be available at ACT for Alexandria offices (201 N. Union St., Suite 110, Alexandria, Virginia 22314) from 3:00-5:00pm July 29<sup>th</sup> through August 2<sup>nd</sup>, August 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, and August 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>. Language access support is available.

***Applications must be received by 5:00pm on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024.***

### Who do I talk to if I have a question about or need help with filling out an application?

If you have questions about the application you may refer to this document, watch the informational recording on the Fund for Racial Equity [webpage](#), or contact ACT for Alexandria at [grants@actforalexandria.org](mailto:grants@actforalexandria.org) or 703-739-7778. Office hours will also be posted on the Fund for Racial Equity webpage and language access support is available.

### Can I apply for multiple projects?

No, we are only able to accept one application per individual or nonprofit organization.

### Can multiple individuals from one organization apply?

Yes, multiple people from one organization may apply as an individual, however, they should be applying for different projects.

\*\* <https://www.actforalexandria.org/initiatives/t/fund-for-racial-equity/>

