



Frequently Asked Questions

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The Basics

What is the WELL Fund?

The WELL Fund is a grant program that supports BIPOC-led nonprofits who serve Detroit youth (ages 5-24). The fund will provide direct grants of up to \$75,000 to approximately five organizations to provide:

- general operating funding,
- technical assistance,
- capacity building and leadership development, and
- support for wellness activities

Co.act Detroit administers the fund, which was shaped through a community-centered and participatory strategy.

What does the WELL Fund stand for?

WELLNESS

In 2022, **Co.act Detroit**, the **Skillman Foundation**, **Black Executive Directors Alliance of Detroit (BEDAD)**, and **Youth Development Resource Center (YDRC)** came together around a critical question: how best to support BIPOC-led nonprofits traditionally excluded from funding opportunities.

Recognizing the **connections between wellness, capacity and funding**, the WELL Fund was shaped collaboratively by the experiences of local BIPOC leaders, including BEDAD, YDRC, and an advisory group made up of local leaders.

EQUITY

Through funding for **capacity building** and **technical assistance** provided by BEDAD and Opsidia, the WELL Fund will support BIPOC-led organizations which have faced inequities in funding compared to their white-led counterparts.

LEADING & LEARNING

Through leadership coaching, the WELL Fund will support the growth of individual professionals and the sustainability of their organizations.

Who funds the WELL Fund?

The WELL Fund is funded with initial investment from the Skillman Foundation.

Who is eligible to apply?

Nonprofit organizations* that:

- Primarily serve Detroit youth ages 5-24 years old
- Are located in Detroit, Hamtramck, or Highland Park**
- Are BIPOC-led, as defined by:
 - Executive director/CEO identifies as BIPOC
 - 51% or more of staff (full and part time) identifies as BIPOC
 - 51% or more of board or advisory members identify as BIPOC
- Have annual revenue that does not exceed \$300,000
- Have two or more full-time staff members
 - Can include executive director or CEO
- Are in good standing with the State of Michigan and the IRS

Candidates must meet all criteria.

* Non-501(c)(3) organizations may still apply with a fiduciary.

** Organizations without a physical location are eligible to apply, provided they serve primarily Detroit youth.

Who cannot apply?

1. **Individuals.**
2. **Organizations that discriminate** on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, citizenship status, age, disability, sexual orientation or veteran status.
3. **Organizations that require membership in certain religions** or advance a particular religious faith. Faith-based organizations may be eligible if they welcome and serve all members of the community regardless of religious belief and meet all other eligibility criteria.
4. **For-profit** organizations or organizations operated to benefit for-profit organizations.
5. **Academic Institutions** - organizations that concentrate primarily on degree-granting activities. Academic institutions may be eligible if they provide other programs beyond primarily degree-granting, instructional activities that serve a broader community and meet all other eligibility criteria.
 - a. Detroit Public Schools Community District (DPSCD) schools **are not eligible** to apply, but nonprofit schools **are eligible** to apply if they meet all other eligibility criteria.
6. **Public entities** including city departments and quasi-governmental organizations (businesses within or under government entities).

Why does an organization have to be BIPOC-led and BIPOC majority

staff and board?

The WELL fund was created to support organizations that typically experience barriers to funding from traditional philanthropic structures. BIPOC-led organizations and organizations with smaller budget sizes historically receive less funding than larger, white-led nonprofits.

This fund seeks to help close that gap in addition to providing technical assistance and capacity building to help Detroit-area organizations grow their impact to the next level.

What is a fiduciary?

According to Fiscal Sponsorship: a 360 Degree Perspective, Trust for Conservation Innovation, a fiduciary is a nonprofit organization that provides “financial management, and other administrative services to help build the capacity of charitable projects.”

Find out more about fiduciaries (also known as fiscal sponsors) [here](#).

Can I apply with a fiduciary?

Yes. If you are a nonprofit organization, you can apply for a WELL Fund grant with a fiduciary.

For more information on finding a fiduciary see [here](#).

When must I select a fiduciary?

If your organization requires a fiduciary (if you are not a registered 501(c)(3)), one must be identified in order to complete your application.

Application Details**How do I apply?**

All applications must be submitted online via [submittable.com](#) by May 3rd, 2023, at 5:00pm EST. Applications must be submitted in full, with all required financial attachments. Incomplete applications will be deemed ineligible and not considered. Applications must be submitted online via Submittable using this [link](#).

When must applications be submitted?

Applications will open on Wednesday, April 5, 2023, and are due Wednesday, May 3, 2023, 5PM ET.

Do I have to create a profile as part of the application process?

Yes. Creating a profile gives you access to the application and allows the Selection Committee to follow up with additional information, questions, and opportunities. You

can also find out more about setting up your profile [here](#) and find answers to frequently asked questions from Submittable users [here](#).

May I submit a paper application if I do not have access to the internet?

Yes. Paper applications may be submitted each **Wednesday from 12pm to 4pm** until the deadline at:

Co.act Detroit
6568 Woodward Ave.
Detroit, MI 48202
[Transportation Information](#)

If I have questions or need support with my application, what should I do?

Interested applicants can attend live and recorded information sessions and reach out to grants@coactdetroit.org with any questions. Additional information can be found at <https://coactdetroit.org/the-well-fund/>

Award Details

What is the award?

Grantees will receive:

- direct grants up to \$75,000
- capacity building support from Opsidia and BEDAD

All applicants will be connected to a network of technical assistance programs and capacity building resources.

What can the grant be used for?

Funds may be used for:

- general operating expenses
- individual staff or organizational capacity building
- support for wellness activities

General operating expenses are the day-to-day costs of running the organization, like covering payroll and rent.

Capacity building is a self-defined and self-driven process of developing and strengthening the skills, instincts, abilities, processes, and resources that organizations and communities need to survive, adapt, and thrive.

Wellness is defined as programs and activities to improve overall mental, physical, and social emotional wellness of young people, young adults or staff and community.

All grant funds will require a line-item budget. It should be clear how grant expenses directly relate to supporting Detroit-area youth and/or wellness. For more information on the use of grant funds, view program guidelines [here](#).

Up to what amount of money can an organization apply for?

Grants will be awarded in an amount **up to** \$75,000.

Proposals with smaller budgets are encouraged to apply and are equally competitive.

Do grantees receive funding up front?

Grantees will receive the full amount of funding they are awarded at the beginning of the grant period.

What if I don't use all the grant funds I am awarded?

We are dedicated to helping you spend down the full grant amount that you are awarded, consistent with the purpose of the grant. If during the award period you find that you are not on track to spend your total grant amount, you can connect with Co.act Detroit as a resource for support. If you ultimately do not expend the total grant amount, all remaining funds must be returned to Co.act Detroit as the administrator of the grant program.

What is the award period?

The award period is 12 months (beginning in July 2023, ending no later than July 2024).

Selection Process

How will grantees be selected?

A diverse and representative committee of Detroit youth, Co.act and Skillman staff, and other community stakeholders will make up the selection committee. The committee will review applications and make recommendations for grant awards. Grant awards are issued on a competitive basis due to limited resources.

How are applications reviewed?

All applications will be reviewed for eligibility to ensure good standing with the State of Michigan and IRS. Any applicants that are deemed ineligible will not be considered but will be notified and connected with resources to support access to future funding opportunities.

Applications will be scored by the selection committee. The committee will recommend grantee selections to Co.act. Co.act is committed to honoring the selection committee's recommendations, in particular youth committee members, but retains final decision-making authority over final awards.

How will applications be scored?

Please view the scoring rubric [here](#).

When will decisions be made on individual applications?

We anticipate selection of grantees and disbursement of grant funds by Summer 2023. All applicants will be notified whether or not they are selected.

What else do I need to know?

How is applicant information used?

Applicant information is shared with Co.act Detroit, the Skillman Foundation, capacity building partner organizations and other members of the Selection Committee for the purposes of program selection and administration. If Co.act cannot directly help an applicant or grantee, we will seek to connect the organization with other resources. Information may be shared with additional parties for the purposes of program evaluation.

Applicant data is not sold.

How will I know if my application has been received?

Applicants will receive an automatic confirmation email after submission. It may take several days to process applications. Please note that an email address is required to receive confirmation that an application has been received.

Can I apply to the WELL Fund if I have received funding from Co.act or Skillman?

Yes. Receiving funding from past Co.act or Skillman programs does not disqualify you from applying to the WELL Fund.