CERA
Council on Cultural, Ethnic and Racial Affairs

Ask Me About
The Color Of Power

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR CERA'S ACTION FOR RACIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY FUND

The Council on Cultural, Ethnic, and Racial Affairs (CERA) seeks to fund activities and projects geared toward advancing racial justice and equity. The Action for Racial Justice and Equity Fund (ARJEF) is designed to support community-focused and grassroots organizations that are committed to eradicating systemic racism in North America and across the globe, and that center the voices and interests of people of Black, African, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian, Pacific Islander and/or Middle Eastern descent in community organizing, public policy or advocacy, community intervention and prevention, healthcare and human service delivery, and social issues.

ABOUT CERA

CERA was originally established as a committee of the Society for Community Research and Action (a division of the American Psychological Association) in 1976 but has since become a Council. CERA's mission is five-fold:

- To represent issues of cultural diversity and promote the concerns of Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) as a focus of community research and intervention;
- To promote the concerns and well-being of BIPOC with an interest in community psychology within academia, practice and praxis;
- To promote training and professional development opportunities for BIPOC interested in community psychology;
- To advise SCRA's Executive Committee on matters of concern to BIPOC, and in particular, the dismantling of systemic racism; and
- To inform and educate the Executive Committee regarding the implications of decisions as they pertain to the well-being of BIPOC and the dismantling of systemic racism.

CERA has actively worked to support BIPOC communities and speak out against injustices resulting from systemic racism and oppression both within and beyond the field through activities such as sending letters to policymakers, drafting statements for use within and outside of the organization, hosting healing circles, and creating racial and social justice funding opportunities to support community psychologists and other professionals engaged in this work.

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PURPOSE OF THIS RFP

Structural racism has a profound global impact on individual lives across a variety of sectors, including education, housing, healthcare, career advancement, legal involvement, youth development, economic stability, and family resources. Longstanding racial disparities have been well-documented across these areas, and despite America's most recent racial reckoning prompted by the murders of George Floyd, Breanna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery, these disparities have only become more pronounced with the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, there is a need for immediate actionable solutions that have direct impact within communities and on the systems maintaining these inequities. CERA seeks to fund new projects and initiatives that are co-created or led by, and center the experiences of people of the Global Majority to eradicate and redefine structures that maintain systemic racism. The goal is to inspire and support the start-up and implementation of community-led, grassroots efforts to advance racial equity.

HOW TO APPLY

- Applicants should submit a narrative of up to 500 words outlining a proposed project/initiative designed to address systemic racism at either the local, national, or societal level. The proposal should include a short statement of the issue or concern, justification for the initiative, how it is expected to address the issue of concern, planned processes for implementation, evaluation methodology, and intended impact.
- In addition to the narrative, proposals should include a projected timeline of activities and projected budget for successful implementation. Applicants should specify in their budget proposals the items for which funds through ARJEF are being requested. The funding is not expected to cover the total project expenses, and instead is meant to defray some of the total costs.
- Applications should be sent as one packet to ceraminigrants@scra27.org from the primary applicant/point of contact. If applicable, any additional organizational partners or key team members who are jointly submitting the application and wish to receive joint communication about the application should be cc'd on the email.

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ELEGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

- Type of Project: This funding opportunity is intended to support action-oriented projects that address racial equity, including but not limited to: direct service, community program implementation, resource development, and advocacy on policy issues at the local, regional, or national levels.
- Geography: Applicants may be based ANYWHERE across the globe . There is NO citizenship requirement to be eligible for this funding opportunity.
- Equitable Leadership & Labor: The majority of decision-makers (60% of the leadership team and 50% of the Board, if applicable) identify as Black, African, Indigenous, Hispanic, Latin, Asian, and/or Pacific Islander.
- Grassroots/Community-Based: The work is rooted in and/or owned by the community. The work was developed by people connected to or affected by the area of focus.
- Community Benefit: The work benefits the broader community rather than benefiting any private individual, group, or business.
- Actionable: The work seeking funding intentionally contributes to advancing racial justice and equity and is able to be executed with measurable results within a 12-month period.
- This funding opportunity is open to public or non-profit organizations, social enterprises, community coalitions, centers within colleges and universities, and groups or individuals who meet all other eligibility requirements above. Preference will be given to applicants who represent a grassroots organization with a mission and purpose that directly and explicitly addresses racial/social justice and equity at a local community, national, and/or societal level.
- One-Two (1-2) applicants will receive a grant of up to $3500 to cover approved costs associated with implementing their proposed project or initiative.
- Proposals will be evaluated based on their feasibility of implementation and potential to effect change that promotes racial justice and equity in one or more sectors (e.g., employment, housing, healthcare, youth development, education, etc.). For the purpose of this funding opportunity, we define racial justice as the inclusion and centering of the interests and experiences of particular racial or ethnic peoples in spaces where they have been historically excluded from decision making that has a societal impact.

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WHAT WILL NOT BE FUNDED

- Activities geared solely toward research and academia (e.g., data collection, publication, course development, analytic methods or equipment, academic presentations)
- Internal or organizational DEI trainings and workshops
- Employee health or other workplace initiatives
- Travel

APPLICATION TIMELINE

- Applications must be received by 11:59 PM EDT on Sunday, November 1, 2026.
- One-Two proposals will be selected for funding. Finalists will be notified by mid-December.
- Finalists will be expected to submit an acceptance form and financial documents within two weeks of award notification to receive the award.
- Funds will be disbursed by February 15, 2027.