SWGC 2024 Informational Webinar Recording Transcript

Pati Morales:
Hello everyone, welcome to the 2024 Sex Worker Giving Circle grant application info webinar. Please know that we will have our information at the end of the slide show if there is anything that we do not cover, or if you have any follow-up questions. But for now, we will get started with introductions. My name is Pati, I use she and her pronouns, and I am the Program Officer of the Sex Worker Giving Circle.

CJ Bell:
Hey everybody, my name is CJ. My pronouns are they/them and I am the Program Associate for the Sex Worker Giving Circle.

Pati Morales:
Thanks CJ, and we both happen to be former fellows from 2021, and are happy to share that since last year the program is for the first time ever former fellow staffed.

CJ Bell:
Thanks Pati. So about Third Wave Fund, and we'll start with the history. Third Wave Fund resources and supports youth led intersectional gender justice activism. We define gender justice as a movement to end patriarchy, transphobia, homophobia, and misogyny. Since gender oppression is tied to capitalism, classism, racism, and ageism, gender justice can only be achieved when all forms of oppression cease to exist. Our grant making and donor mobilizing advances the community power, well-being and self-determination of young Black indigenous people of color or BIPOC most directly impacted by and best position to end gender oppression. We specifically resource grassroots movements that are multi-issue, community led, and unapologetically queer, trans, intersex, and sex worker-led.

So now let's talk a little bit about programs. The Mobilize Power Fund is a rapid response fund that supports the leadership of young, queer, trans, intersex and gender nonconforming people of color under 35 in social justice movements in moments of urgent direct action, community mobilizing, and healing justice. Mobilize Power Fund makes grants of up to $10,000 in organization to organizations and $20,000 to coalitions on a monthly basis. The Own Our Power Fund builds stronger reproductive and gender justice movements. By increasing the power, agency, and self determination that young women trans and queer youth of color have in their organizations. Grantees receive $20,000 for 2 years to support leadership transition, participatory action research and capacity building for communications and fundraising work. The Grow Power Fund provides up to 6 years of holistic support, inclusive of general operating
support, capacity building, organizational development coaching and annual convenience. We support emerging organizations with budgets under $200,000 that demonstrate shared leadership and potential growth but may lack access to skills, development, and grant funding. The Accountable Futures Fund supports communities, organizations, and movements led by young BIPOC sis and trans women and queer and trans and gender nonconforming people to navigate conflict in harms and ways to decrease the power of the cars full and state systems. The Disability Front Lines Fund is a new fund that focuses directly on resourcing groups across the United States and territories that center and build the leadership of black, indigenous people of color or BIPOC who identify as disabled, living with disabilities, deaf, hard of hearing, chronically sick or ill, neurodivergent and or mad who practice disability justice. We resource these communities in order to create impactful, intersectional, and sustainable movements to address issues facing disabled individuals and communities in an ableist world. And I’ll throw it to you, Pati, to talk about Sex Worker Giving Circle.

**Pati Morales:**
Yes, thank you CJ. And before I get into it, just wanna say if any of those programs sound like a match for your group or organization, we definitely encourage you to check their applications out as well. Okay, but today we are here to talk about the Sex Worker Giving Circle and our application process. So the Sex Worker Giving Circle is a sex worker-led fund and it was launched in the spring of 2018. It is a cross-class, multiracial, intergenerational giving circle. Made up of a group of fellows who are women, queer, and trans folks with current or past experience in various professions in the sex trade and it also includes survivors of the sex trade. A new cohort of fellows is selected every year with the input of our advisory board, which is also made up of current or former sex workers and also changes every year. Fellows make all high level funding decisions and funding recommendations. Fellows spend half of a 4-month program participating in training sessions about grant making and radical participatory philanthropy and then the second half of the fellowship is spent doing the actual grant making itself. So that includes reviewing applications, doing interviews and making final decisions. Since 2018, fellows led the Sex Worker Giving Circle to grant out over 3 million dollars to 48 sex worker led groups across the US. To build safety, self determination, community power and systems of mutual aid for sex workers across the US. Our grants are 2 year grants of up to $35,000. Which means if selected as a grantee, you receive a total of $70,000 across 2 years or up to $70,000 across 2 years. And now I will pass the mic back to CJ to talk about eligibility.

**CJ Bell:**
Thanks, Pati. So like Pati mentioned, grants are available in amounts of $35,000 for 2 years each year. Location is that applicants must be based in the United States or US territories. Budget size. Applicants must have a budget of less than $400,000. The Sex Worker Giving Circle only funds work led by and for people with current or previous sex work or sex trade
experience and are the only ones eligible for this grant. Infrastructure; applicants must either be a 501C3, 501c4, or fiscally sponsored project or be willing to become a fiscally sponsored project prior to receiving this grant and with that, I'll kick it over to you, Pati, to talk about criteria.

**Pati Morales:**
Thanks, CJ. So fellows score the applications based on 4 main criteria. The first is Gender justice focus. So this is whether applicants specifically work toward gender justice. That addresses patriarchy, misogyny, homophobia, transphobia. Gender inequity. Or gender-based violence. As well as the ways that gender oppression intersects with racism, Classism and criminalization. The second criteria is regarding the organization's vision and strategy. So do applicants have a or seem to have a strong vision for themselves and the future and operate with a root cause analysis of oppression that goes beyond the achievement of legal rights and legislative policies. Does the organization employ a range of strategies that are used to build community power to achieve structural change? The third is leadership. Our applicants are led by and accountable to the communities they work with. And do they work to develop leadership within those communities. We will prioritize groups led by sex workers most impacted by oppression and with the least access to funding and finally, the group’s potential. Do applicants demonstrate a vision? For long-term growth and impact and do they demonstrate how they stand to significantly benefit from funding.

**CJ Bell:**
Thanks, Pati. I'll go ahead and go to the next slide if you’re ready for me too.

**Pati Morales:**
Yes, thank you, CJ.

**CJ Bell:**
So now I'll talk about the application process and there are 2 stages to our application process. The first stage is the application in which you can access via our website which is third wave.org. That’s third wave fund all spelt out.org. You'll find a link that will take you to our fiscal sponsors portal flux. The application asks basic organizational information in just a few narrative questions. This year, both the English and Spanish applications are submitted via the Flux portal. The second stage is the interview. If invited, it's at this stage that supporting materials like budget, demographics charts, etc. are requested via the portal as well. The interview is held virtually with 3 fellows and questions are sent ahead of time. Everyone who advances to this stage but does not receive funding will get $500 in recognition of their labor and information. I'll pass it to Pati to take us through the timeline.
Pati Morales:
Thank you. Okay, so our application opened on March eleventh and we'll close on March 24 at midnight in your time zone. The fellows will take up most of April to engage in their initial decision making meetings to select which groups will be interviewed. If your group is selected to be interviewed, you will receive an email from us on April thirtieth letting you know. Then interviews will take place in the month of May. And this is also when we request supporting documents to be submitted via the Flux portal. The fellows will then meet again to do their final decision making. We will notify the groups that were selected to become grantees on June thirteenth. Then grants will be dispersed in September. The first year grant.

And that's the end of our. Webinar if you have any questions you can email us now or later at SW Giving Circle at third wave fund dot org and I'll pass it to you, Pati to close us out. Thank you everyone for tuning in and we look forward to reading your applications and passing them off to the fellows. Take care.