

About Astraea and the International Fund for Sexual Minorities

Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice works for social, racial and economic justice in the U.S. and internationally. Our grantmaking and philanthropic advocacy programs help lesbians and allied communities challenge oppression and claim their human rights. Since our founding in 1977, our mission has been based on an enduring commitment to feminism, progressive social change and an end to all forms of exploitation and oppression.

Astraea's International Fund for Sexual Minorities supports groups, projects, or organizations working towards progressive social change which are led by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) communities and directly address oppression based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity/expression.

This Fund was established in 1996 with a donor-directed grant through the Heinrich Böll Foundation and with the initial efforts of the International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC). The creation of this Fund acknowledges the growing global movement for the human rights of sexual minorities and the well-documented need to support groups that enhance the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (lgbti*) peoples worldwide. **We recognize the limitations of Western definitions of trans and same gender-loving people and support indigenous expressions of these identities such as Two Spirit (Native American), Shamakhami (Bengali), Hijra (Hindi), as well as the broader category of trans expressions in Latin America and the Caribbean, etc.*

FUNDING LEVEL & TYPES OF SUPPORT

Though Astraea's International Fund offers different types of grants, such as rapid response Emergency and Movement Resource grants, as well as grants to youth organizations and institutional and policy change projects, our most flexible and open grantmaking program is the so-called "Panel Grants". Through our Panel Grants, for which the decision is made by a Panel of North-based international LGBT activists and with input from our International Advisory Board and allies, we review applications twice a year.

Starting in fiscal year 09-10, organizations interested in Panel Grants that are not current Astraea grantee partners will initially submit a Letter of Inquiry, so it can be determined whether the organization should be invited to submit a full proposal. Selected Letters of Inquiry to be invited to submit a full proposal will be notified within a few weeks. We will not respond to all Letters of Inquiry. Organizations submitting a Letter of Inquiry and not receiving a reply from Astraea after several weeks should automatically assume that their Inquiry did not move to the next level.

Also, a new process is in place for current grantee partners; current grantee partners are groups that meet **all** of the following criteria:

- Have received at least one Astraea grant (of any kind) since January 2007
- Had their most recent Astraea funding application approved
- Have remained active in their mission and operations since the most recent Astraea grant
- Continue to meet Astraea's criteria and priorities for the International Fund

Current grantee partners do not need to submit Letters of Inquiry and can apply directly for a panel grant, by the due date, by submitting a completed renewal form and required materials, including past grant reports, as stated in the renewal application instructions document. The process for all applicants continues to be competitive and selective and current grantee partners are not guaranteed a renewal grant from year to year, though past success in meeting goals proposed to Astraea is taken into consideration in the review of renewal applications. All current grantee partners will receive a reply by the stated due date, with a decision on their application.

The maximum size for a grant from Astraea's International Fund panel is \$10,000USD. In recent times, the average grant size has ranged from \$4,000 - \$8,000USD, with grants at the high end being exceptional.

Grant Purpose:

- **General Support:** Organizations may apply for general support, including expenses such as salary and rent, equipment, training, and staff needs that help build the management and programmatic capacity of the group to carry out its work. Organizations that meet Astraea's eligibility criteria and priorities for funding are encouraged to apply for general support.
- **Project Support:** All organizations are eligible to apply for project support. In particular, organizations or groups that meet our guidelines (for example, women's, human rights or progressive groups with a broader mission and with LGBTI leadership) may apply for a specific project or for program support.

REVIEW PROCESS FOR CURRENT GRANTEE PARTNERS

- Invited non-grantee applications and proposals for renewal grants are reviewed and discussed by the International Fund Grants Panel, with participation from the International Fund Advisory Board and Astraea staff. Comments on applicants are also accepted from Astraea's institutional partners.
- Selected applicants submitting Letters of Inquiry will be notified of whether to submit a full proposal by email and invited applicants will receive funding decisions within **five months** after the invited application closing date.
- Current grantee partners will be notified of a grant decision on their application within **five months** after the invited application closing date.

CONDITIONS OF A GRANT

- ✓ Groups awarded a grant will receive a written term of agreement. A progress report is due within 6 months of grants made, and a final report is due within a year of the grant.
- ✓ A group may receive only one grant from the International Fund panel in a 12 month period. However, there is no limit to the number of consecutive year grants an organization may be awarded. A group may also consider applying to other Astraea funding programs.
- ✓ Grants will only be made to non-governmental organizations and/or projects which meet *in form and spirit* of the criteria which are used in determining non-taxable 501(c)(3) status in the United States of America, i.e. organizations operated for charitable or educational purposes.
- ✓ Grants can only be made to the bank account of the organization. **Astraea does not make grant payments to the account of an individual.**

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS FOR CURRENT GRANTEE PARTNERS

Renewal applications may be submitted in any language, as long as the language is indicated. Incomplete proposals will not be reviewed. In an effort to be environmental and cost-conscious, we prefer applications and materials submitted via email, though we will accept hard copies, if necessary.

The submission of excessive amounts of paper is discouraged. While we expect you to follow all instructions and answer questions in full, please provide the information in the most concise way possible. For example, if your organization carries out many activities, it may not be necessary for us to know of every single activity you carried out in the past year or are planning under this request.

If you have any questions about the renewal application form or required materials, or have questions once you receive a decision notification, please email: grants@astraeafoundation.org.

Submit all materials to: **International Fund, Renewal Applications • Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice**
grants@astraeafoundation.org. If you must use postal mail, address your correspondence to **116 E. 16th St., 7th flr• New York, NY 10003, USA**