

ARE YOU **ELIGIBLE** TO SUBMIT A LETTER OF INQUIRY
FOR ASTRAEA'S INTERNATIONAL FUND ANNUAL GRANTS PROGRAM?

Starting in the summer of 2009, non-grantees interested in support for the International Fund must submit a letter of inquiry through which it will be determined whether they can proceed to submit a full proposal. Acceptance of full applications from organizations that are not current grantee partners¹ is **by invitation only** and unsolicited proposals will not be considered.

Current grantee partners should follow the instructions for submission of the grant renewal application form

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- **All Letters of Inquiry must be submitted “Attention International Fund—Letter of Inquiry FY 10-11” on the subject line to grants@astraeafoundation.org. Only groups to be invited to apply will be contacted with the decision and further application instructions.**
 - **Invited applicants will be notified of the decision no later than Friday, April 15, 2011.**
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Criteria Self-Check Exercise

(To determine eligibility; No need to submit this section as part of your inquiry)

--Is your organization located in Africa, the Americas (except for Puerto Rico² and Cuba³), Asia and the Pacific, Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, or the Middle East?

--Is your organization primarily governed by and composed of people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, gender non-conforming, or queer-identified?

--Does your organization work towards concrete social change to eliminate root causes of oppression and inequality faced by LGBTI people, as well as others who are penalized, persecuted or harassed for their gender identity, gender expression, and/or sexual orientation?

--Is your organization's budget under \$500,000 USD?

--Has your organization been active for at least one year?

If you answered yes to the **all the above questions**, then you are eligible to submit a letter of inquiry.

However, due to limited resources and funding strategy, Astraea is unable to support all organizations that may fit our criteria and even that fit a number of our priorities. We recognize that it is impossible for us to support all LGBTI organizations doing important work in the Global South and East. Before you submit a letter of inquiry, take the time to assess how close a match your organization's work/vision are to Astraea's vision/priorities. Please note that if you are invited to submit a full proposal, it will be very helpful for you to refer to Astraea's priorities and give examples of how your organization would be a good fit.

¹ Current grantee partners refer to organizations that have received at least one Astraea grant within the past two years (since January 2008)

² Organizations based in Puerto Rico are eligible to apply under Astraea's US General Fund. Organizations in this category should review the criteria of our US programs to assess eligibility

³ Due to current U.S. government restrictions, we are unable to consider organizations based in Cuba

FUNDING PRIORITIES

Additional factors that Astraea considers when reviewing applications and making funding decisions:

- Groups that are directed by and targeted to lesbians/bisexual women.
- Groups that are directed by and targeted to transgender and/or intersex communities.
- Groups that are led by/for LGBTI communities that are historically under-resourced, such as youth, elders, ethnic minorities, migrants/refugees, low-income people, people with disabilities, sex workers, etc.
- Groups that have active participation and leadership from the communities most affected by issues that the group works on. Projects funded by Astraea embrace inclusivity and reflect the diversity of the geographic region in which they do their work.
- Groups that demonstrate an understanding of the connections amongst different oppressions facing LGBTI peoples, and have a commitment to address other forms of oppression such as oppression based on class, race, ethnicity, age, physical and mental ability, gender, national identity, and religious affiliation.
- Groups that develop leadership and build communities' capacity to achieve social change, particularly proposals that strengthen an organization's ability to organize. Organizing may be defined as activities that actively engage people affected by societal problems in the process of identifying and pursuing solutions.
- Groups that work in alliance and/or builds coalition with other justice movement organizations (e.g. sex worker rights, human rights, etc.)
- Internal/external organizational practices reflect social justice principles (e.g. clear structures and processes for accountability to communities being served).
- Groups that are based in countries/locations that do not yet have significant LGBTI resources.
- Groups that have limited access to traditional sources of funding.

FUNDING EXCLUSIONS

Please note that Astraea's **International Fund does not provide support for the following:**

- Organizations based in the U.S or its territories⁴, Canada, Western Europe, Australia, or New Zealand
- Organizations led and staffed by people who are not LGBTIQ-identified
- Organizations whose existence or activities cannot be verified by anyone in the country or the region where they operate
- Organizations with strong leadership from only 1 individual
- Organizations with budgets of over \$500,000USD
- Groups whose sole purpose is to generate income or to provide charity to individuals, direct social service projects, research projects, or one-time events that are not part of, or linked to, ongoing social change organizing strategies
- International organizations proposing projects with local partners
- Private business or profit-making efforts (including business development)
- Efforts that endorse candidates for public office (incl. political parties and election campaigns)
- Capital campaigns, endowments, or deficit financing
- Projects that are based in or sponsored by a university, college, or other academic institution
- Individual projects (e.g. graduate research, fellowships, etc.)