



Improving Nonprofit Capacity in the Mid-Hudson Valley

Funding and Resources Available from the Dyson Foundation and NYCON

Management Assistance and Capacity Building Funding Available

Did you know that funding and other resources are available to help nonprofit board, staff, and volunteer leaders develop their governance and management skills?

The Dyson Foundation's **Management Assistance Program** offers mini-grants to Mid-Hudson Valley nonprofits for consultancy and training, which may be provided by the **New York Council of Nonprofits**, and is available to organizations located in Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Putnam, and Ulster counties.

By providing organizations with the financial support to hire consultants to lead specific capacity building activities, the Mini-Grant Program helps Mid-Hudson Valley nonprofits improve their governance practices, internal operations, program development, administration, and management to better achieve their missions.

Program Details

If eligible, your nonprofit can apply at any time throughout the year as applications are reviewed on an on-going basis. The Dyson Foundation particularly encourages applications from organizations that:

- have an annual operating budget of less than \$1 million
- were founded less than 10 years ago
- are in transition (e.g., significant growth, changes in leadership, reorganization, or similar circumstances)
- have not received prior mini-grant funding from the Dyson Foundation

Please note: The Dyson Foundation Mini-Grant Program will fund up to 80% of a project's cost, with a maximum award of \$12,000.

Grantees are responsible for the remaining 20% of the project budget. Applicants may include overhead costs (up to 12% of the total budget) but not staff time on a proposed mini-grant budget. Organizations are generally limited to one mini-grant in a calendar year.



In reviewing requests for funding, proposals will be evaluated based on clarity, the need and reasoning for the proposed consultancy or training, the quality of the proposed program or the potential for the consultant's work to advance the organization, and the commitment of the organization to implement recommendations and adopt new skills.

Examples of how funds might be used include:

- facilitation of a strategic planning process
- comprehensive or focused organizational assessments
- resource development planning
- training for board members
- succession planning
- executive coaching
- developing a marketing and communication plan
- establishing or improving fiscal systems
- developing personnel management training or policies
- attending a relevant conference or seminar
- technology planning
- developing an advocacy and/or community organizing plan

NYCON staff are available to help determine your Capacity Building needs and provide you with a project proposal for your Mini Grant Program Application. Over the years we have successfully assisted hundreds of organizations by discussing project ideas and providing them with a major component of what helps them build a sound, compelling application to the Dyson Foundation. The work we do with your organization will **provide you with more than 70% of the grant application material**, making the process simple and easy and

"Through an in-depth Strategic Planning process, board and staff were able to set a clear, yet flexible, direction for the future of our agency. NYCON's staff worked very well with Board members during the retreat helping them to understand the strategic planning process, presenting results of the Board and Staff surveys and eliciting valuable information from Board members."

- Jeanne Wagner, Executive Director

→ Get Started Today!

Funding details can be found online at www.dysonfoundation.org/mini-grant-program
Questions? Please Contact NYCON's Mid-Hudson Valley Office:
 1 (845) 454-5062 for Audrey Grifel, Capacity Building Associate or email agrifel@nycon.org