

South House Funding Policy

Approved 19/04/2016, last updated 17/07/2017

We recognize the lack of funding for student projects, for autonomous or marginalized groups, and for groups taking radical measures to ensure social change. Our funding aims to support grassroots initiatives with similar mandates like South House to empower, educate, and inspire action on social justice and specifically gender justice issues. We recognize how a struggle for social change is intersectional. Therefore South House seeks to provide financial support for student and community groups who are working on action initiatives related to social justice, and who may not be able to find sufficient funding elsewhere, especially funding that will allow them to remain independent from corporate or government interests.

South House accepts funding requests from groups and for projects throughout the year. Applicants can apply for up to \$500. Applications by individuals for personal needs belong into the bursary round that takes place twice a year. The committee will work within the budget determined in the annual budget.

Projects that involve collaboration with South House on existing campaigns, projects or other efforts may apply for partnership funding allocated for this purpose. Funds allocated toward these projects depend on yearly budgeting and extensive discussions with South House's board and staff.

1 RESPONSIBILITIES DURING FUNDING PROCESSES

1.1 The chair, treasurer and staff ensure together that procedures in this policy are followed; be familiar with this policy and provide assistance on it;

1.2 The chair communicates funding requests to the board;

1.3 The treasurer keeps an overview of the budget, maintains regular communications with the Chair and administrative coordinator with regards to funding applications, submits a final report summarizing all funding rounds at the end of their Board term to the whole Board.

1.4 All board members will follow the Conflict of Interest Policy.

2 FUNDING CRITERIA

The committee will favour projects that fit some or all of the following criteria:

2.1 Social justice related

Applicants are responsible for demonstrating why their project is relevant to social justice. South House may provide funding to cultural events that serve to implicitly empower marginalized communities through visibility and celebration, preference is given to applications that explicitly address social justice.

2.2 Local focus

Preference will be given to projects that take place in Nova Scotia and contribute to the community in which they take place. No preference is given to projects that occur in Halifax over projects that occur elsewhere in Nova Scotia. Applications requesting travel funding for events outside of Nova Scotia must justify with strong arguments how the expense can have a sustainable impact on local efforts or communities upon return of the applicant(s). Applications that propose projects that have no connection to Nova Scotia will not be considered; including those that do not take place in Nova Scotia or bring education or information back to a Nova Scotian community. Proposals where a large amount budgeted is allocated to travel (either of applicants or of invited participants) will not be given priority.

2.3 Marginalized Populations

Focus on initiatives that are run by, or are in solidarity with, marginalized groups (including, but not limited to, trans/non-cis, intersex and/or two-spirit, women, aboriginal, racialized, and persons with a disability)

2.4 Limited Funding Opportunities

Initiatives that may have limited access to funding from the government, corporations or other NGOs will be given preference. These limitations may be due to an ethical or moral conflict of interest, or because of controversial content.

2.5 Redundancy and Viability

Preference will be given to projects that are viable (realistic in its scope) and are not redundant (not already covered in the city by other groups).

2.6 Continuity and Sustainability

Applications that demonstrate a history of collaboration with South House or intend to continue a working relationship with South House in the future will be prioritized. These include, but are not limited to, applications from established South House working groups. Preference will not be given to one-off events with no link to greater struggles or issues.

2.7 Anti-Oppression framework

Preference will be given to applicants that demonstrate an understanding of an anti-oppression framework and how it relates to their proposal.

3 FUNDING PROCEDURE

3.1 Funding decisions are made in every board meeting.

3.2 The chair receives a funding request and sends it out to all board members. Board members need to read the funding request in advance of a board meeting. Recommendations by treasurer and staff are considered.

4 APPLICATION PROCEDURE

4.1 Applicants may apply for funding by submitting a funding request directly to the board or staff. This can be done in-person at South House or via email.

4.2 The treasurer and staff shall offer support and advice to potential applicants upon request. Dialogue on how to best tailor an application according to South House's funding criteria may be pursued after submission.

4.3 The board shall recognize that experience in text-based or other grant applications may often be the result of privileged education or positions of employment. Alternatives to text-based applications are possible if coordinated with the board or staff. Oral presentations to the board can be arranged and may be accompanied by audio-visual support. This recognition shall be taken into account by the board when evaluating applications against one another.

4.4 Proposal applicants will be contacted by the chair within two weeks after the first board meeting after the funding request was submitted.

4.5 If a funding application is rejected, the chair or treasurer will explain why the application was denied and how/if South House as an organization can offer support in other ways. Suggestions for future applications should be offered.

4.6 In order to receive funding, the approved proposal must submit receipts as outlined in the budget, or if the spending differs slightly, with an explanation as to how the funding was used.

4.7 The recipient(s) must submit a brief report outlining how the funding was used within 3 months of receiving the funding. The treasurer, finance committee, and staff are responsible for following up with successful funding applicants about this report.