



Building Interfaith America Grants

Leveraging Interfaith Skills to Increase Civic Cooperation

At Interfaith America, we believe that U.S. religious diversity is a strength; when we engage that diversity proactively, we can address the major challenges of our communities and our nation. Yet, engaging across deep differences is work that requires interfaith leadership skills and resources. As this country continues to strive to realize our potential and promise – a nation in which each is invited to contribute their best and to participate in the daily work of democracy – we need everyone to contribute.

In his new book, [We Need to Build](#), Eboo Patel writes,

We will know we have achieved Interfaith America when it is simply commonplace for cities across the country to have days of interfaith service; when there is an established scholarly field called interfaith studies that certifies tens of thousands of people every year who have the knowledge base and skill set of interfaith leadership; when companies, schools, hospitals, and civil society organizations hire interfaith leaders because they recognize the significance of proactively engaging the religious diversity within their organizations; when houses of worship regularly have partnerships across faith lines; when people across traditions can readily articulate the theology or ethic of interfaith cooperation of their own community... [Most importantly, when religious diversity is understood as a powerful and visible asset that ought to be engaged positively and proactively rather than a dynamic that is either invisible or a threat.](#) (Patel, 21)

The Building Interfaith America grants are an invitation to our network to consider your community's strengths, identify a need or opportunity in your community, propose a project to address it, and leverage the strength of interfaith cooperation to achieve your aspiration.

EMERGING LEADERS NETWORK

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Program Overview

Grants are offered to the members of the [Emerging Leaders Network](#) (formerly known as the Alumni Network of IFYC) to create initiatives, events, or projects that Build Interfaith America. Grant recipients will use the funding to carry out projects that address a social need through an interfaith lens and/or to participate in activities that further develop the individual's interfaith leadership skills. Topics could include racial equity, environmental protection, bridge building, etc.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Working with community partners or civic institutions or a project to address a need in the community (e.g., loneliness and mental health crisis; food insecurity; barriers to health equity)
- Participating in a workshop, training, or conference that increase the recipient's ability to apply their interfaith skills in their specific context (e.g., Conference on Medicine and Religion, Storytelling training, leadership coaching, religious denomination conference to further one's ethic of interfaith cooperation)
- Implementing a program on the intersections of race and religion (e.g., religious and racial literacy campaigns; film screening and discussion, Get Out the Vote efforts; service and civic engagement opportunities with religious literacy training)

Eligibility: All members of the Interfaith America's Emerging Network, made up of young professionals applying interfaith skills beyond higher education.

Deliverable: Final report sharing learning and impact.

We at Interfaith America are committed to supporting the grantees throughout the grant process by email, phone, and virtual meetings as needed.

For further information, please contact Paul Wagner (pwagner@interfaithamerica.org)

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Program Timeline

December 16 th , 2022	Application Deadline*
January 16 th , 2023	Grantees will be notified of their selection
June 15 th , 2023	End of grant period. Deadline for all awardees to submit final reports, which will include an assessment of program impact as well as commitment to next steps in the field of interfaith cooperation.

*If your proposal is time-sensitive and you require a response before the above date, funds can be awarded early. Contact Paul Wagner (pwagner@interfaithamerica.org) to request that your application be given immediate attention. Applications will not be processed before the application deadline unless otherwise requested.