

# COMMUNITY PROGRESS FUND

## An Initiative of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation's Community-Based Strategy

Sometimes, a local organization, idea, issue or project needs that extra boost at just the right time to continue to make progress toward an end goal. The Community Progress Fund is designed to provide an infusion of short-term funding at the right moment and is intended to build on existing momentum to help move an issue, an idea or an organization forward.

The Progress Fund allows communities to test ideas, expand promising efforts, or achieve greater impact. By investing in these local efforts, ZSR will enhance its understanding of North Carolina by learning from community members' unique experiences and connections to people and places.

Our goal is to award a significant portion of grants to organizations that are run by and primarily serve people of color, therefore ZSR strongly encourages applications from these organizations.

### Community Progress Fund Deadlines

ZSR will begin accepting Letters of Intent (LOIs) on October 1, 2020.

ZSR will review LOIs and contact select applicants who will move to the next phase of the process. This includes ZSR staff meeting with applicants in Spring 2021.

Grant decisions will be made in May 2021.

(See reverse for more details)



## Community Progress Fund Criteria

- Proposals must demonstrate that there is existing momentum within the community.
- Proposals must demonstrate how, with an infusion of funds, they will move an issue or an organization forward in order to test an idea or achieve greater impact.
- ZSR awards Community Progress Fund grants once per year.
- Grant amounts range from \$20,000–\$30,000 per year for one or two years.
- ZSR gives preference to areas of the state with limited philanthropic resources.
- ZSR will review LOIs and contact select applicants who will move to the next phase of the process. This includes ZSR staff meeting with applicants in Spring 2021.



## How to Apply

ZSR will begin accepting Letters of Intent (LOIs) on October 1, 2020. More information about how to submit a Letter of Intent will be available on our website on October 1, 2020. ZSR will review LOIs and contact select applicants who will move to the next phase of the process. This includes ZSR staff scheduling visits in these communities, or virtually if necessary, in Spring 2021. Grant decisions will be made in May 2021.

## Questions?

Please note that submitting a Letter of Intent is the preliminary step in introducing a proposal to ZSR. Therefore it is not necessary to contact a ZSR staff member. For more information, visit <https://www.zsr.org/community-progress>.

Deadline to apply is December 7, 2020. Additional questions can be directed to [info@zsr.org](mailto:info@zsr.org).



**All For NC: Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation's Framework for Grantmaking and Learning** aligns with our mission and core values and includes a *State-Level Systemic Change Strategy*, a *Community-Based Strategy* and an *Exploratory, Visionary Ideas Strategy*. For more information about the *Community-Based Strategy* or our Framework, visit [www.zsr.org](http://www.zsr.org).