Mayor’s Office for Immigrant Advancement 2021 Mini-Grants Program Overview

As our city gradually recovers from the pandemic, many of our immigrant families continue to encounter economic, mental health, legal support and other challenges that have not been adequately addressed by established social safety net programs. Many community based organizations have adapted and innovated their services during a period of crisis to meet these challenges.

To continue to support this important work through this on-going crisis, MOIA will begin to accept applications on Thursday, October 28th for mini grants of $5,000-$10,000 to 10-20 organizations. The community based partners we anticipate supporting through this competitive grant funding opportunity are those that are Boston-based, immigrant-led and/or immigrant-serving, which need operational support or capacity building to continue to serve immigrants.

This program is made possible by proceeds from the 2020 We Are Boston Reception*.

Total Amount Award: $160,000
Estimated Number of Awards: Up to 20
Anticipated Funding Amount: $5,000–$10,000 for one year
Performance Period: One year (November 22, 2021 - November 22, 2022)
Grant Availability Announcement: Thursday, October 28, 2021 - National Immigrants Day
Application Deadline: Friday, November 5, 2021. 5:00 PM (no extensions)
Grants Awarded Announcement: Wednesday, November 17, 2021

Eligibility Criteria:
1. 501c3 registered or under a Fiscal Agent and operates in the City of Boston (REQUIRED);
2. Highly preferred that the organization is immigrant-run and -led, and serve the local immigrant community;
3. Committed to the empowerment and inclusion of immigrants and refugees in the social, economic, civic and cultural life of the City;
4. Demonstrate a deep understanding of, and response to the diverse immigrant community needs during the on-going Covid–19 pandemic;
5. Organizations that have demonstrated a history of collaboration and/or are providing a sustainable service will be given preference;
6. Organizations that have not received funding from the City of Boston in the past year will be given preference.
2021 Mini-Grants Focus Area:
Operational/capacity building support to continue to serve immigrants most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and its related negative effects. The grant funding may be used for direct economic and social interventions that community partners have either already initiated or wish to create (such as digital access and equity-technology procurement, providing creative mental health supports, legal services support and other financial support mechanisms for families in need, to name a few.)

Application Information:
Please refer to the list below of documents that are required to be submitted along with your application:

- Please provide a copy of your (or your fiscal sponsor's) most recent Form 990.
- If your organization is not required to file a Form 990, please upload your most recent audited financial statements or annual report.
- Please provide a copy of your (or your fiscal sponsor's) signed Form W-9.
- Please provide a copy of your organization's Annual Report or Audited Financial Statements for the most recent fiscal year or for the previous year, if the most recent year’s reports are not available until a later date.

Report Criteria:
We are requesting a brief report (2-4 paragraphs) 6 months after the award is received that details your accomplishments, clearly outlines the number of constituents served, and how the awarded funds have helped with your organization's work.

Background:
The Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement (MOIA), formerly known as the Mayor's Office of New Bostonians, was created in 1998 to ensure that new immigrants have access to the civic, economic, social, and cultural life of Boston. Under the leadership of Mayor Kim Janey, MOIA is committed to strengthening and expanding that legacy. We work with the diverse cultural and linguistic communities in the City of Boston to identify and address key issues; act as an advocate for change and facilitate collaboration among immigrant communities, city leadership, and other stakeholders; improve immigrant communities' access to city services and community resources; and promote the significant contributions of new Bostonians, individually and collectively.

*The annual We Are Boston Reception is a unique event that seeks to inspire Bostonians to take pride in our immigrant roots and history and create an environment of inclusiveness that embraces and celebrates all of Boston's diversity. Since the Reception's inception in 2006, a thousand friends and supporters have gathered annually for a fun-filled evening of cultural celebration, complete with an inspiring program recognizing the dreams, drive and contributions of the diverse communities in the City of Boston and across the Commonwealth. Proceeds from the Reception help support crucial programs that enable new Bostonians to become full participants in the City of Boston.*