

# *“Leading From Behind”* The McCune Foundation *Lead Grant Category*



The *Lead* grant provides funding to established organizations that are proven to play an integral role in the broader ecosystem of non-profits by providing critical capacities to numerous other organizations working in alignment with Foundation priorities and values. The Foundation sees Lead grantees as groups operating in the background, providing specific programmatic or operational functions that enable other organizations to increase their impact. Lead grants are highly competitive, with between 1-5 granted per year.

## **Eligibility:**

Organizations wishing to investigate *Lead* eligibility for the 2021 funding cycle should provide a Letter of Interest (LOI) to the Foundation no later than **Wednesday, April 15, 2020**.

The LOI should include the following:

- a. \*A letter summarizing the organization’s work and how it aligns with Foundation Priorities; and detailing how the organization supports other groups to increase their impact, with reference to the specific functions integrated by others.  
**\*The letter (detailing the organization's work, alignment with priorities, and support of other groups to increase their impact) cannot exceed two pages and font size must be 12 point.**
- b. \***Letters of Support** from a minimum of two/maximum of three other organizations substantiating the depth of alignment, partnership and shared work by answering these questions. *1) How does the proposed work extend the capacity of your organization (i.e., what will your organization be able to accomplish that it otherwise wouldn't)? 2) What does this integration make possible for your organization and the communities you serve during the grant funding period? 3) What does this integration make possible for your organization and the communities you serve in the long-term?*  
**\*A Letter of Support must not exceed one page.**
- c. \*The Foundation's "Collaboration/Integration Table" completed according to the instructions contained therein.  
**\*Please email [ernesto@nmmccune.org](mailto:ernesto@nmmccune.org) to request this fillable document well in advance of the LOI submission deadline.**

LOIs should be submitted by email to Ernesto Torres at [ernesto@nmmccune.org](mailto:ernesto@nmmccune.org) no later than **Wednesday, April 15, 2020** for consideration for 2021 funding. Confirmation of receipt of the LOI will be sent by email on or before **Wednesday, April 22, 2020**. If you do not receive a confirmation of receipt, please follow up with Ernesto. Notice of invitation to apply in the Lead category will be sent by email by **July 10, 2020**.

## **Requirements for Lead Grants:**

- Submit Letter of Interest; Foundation reviews and determines whether or not organization is eligible.
- Mid-year grant narrative report.
- End-of-year financial report and "Lessons Learned" narrative report.
- End-of-year “Next Steps” report.
- Mid-year report may serve as application for next year funding. Grant is for 12-month term with no assurance of additional year of funding.
- Maximum of 3 consecutive years, then the applying organization must meet with Foundation staff to discuss on-going eligibility.