

## Fighting Bigotry, Intolerance, Xenophobia and Hate Together

The Leo and Libby Nevas Family Foundation requests proposals under a new grant program to address urgently the rapid rise of bigotry and hate speech aimed at a broad spectrum of minorities during the recent campaign and following the election. These minorities include populations defined by religion, ethnicity, race, national origin, immigration status, gender, sexual orientation and others.

The Nevas Family Foundation intends to make grants totaling up to \$250,000 focused on addressing the rising tide of bigotry. This first set of grants (described below) are intended to be a short-term and encourage and support immediate collaborations to speak out, communicate, activate, mobilize and catalyze an urgent, immediate response.

### Why?

Our founders, Leo and Libby Nevas, believed strongly in human and civil rights. While the domestic bigotry that arose from the recent election is not normally part of our foundation's core focus areas, the rise of anti-Semitism, anti-Muslim bias, racism and other forms of intolerance would have horrified and galvanized our founders.

In particular, Leo Nevas actively led efforts through both Jewish and secular organizations to fight for justice, human rights, human dignity both in the United States and around the world. He consistently sought opportunities to build bridges between disparate people.

As in everything we do, this effort is one that we believe Leo and Libby Nevas would have pursued. We act in their names.

### What?

This is a long-term fight, but with an especially great urgency right now and a need to work together. Thus, we want to act today, with the full realization that longer-term plans with deeper and broader impact will take longer to come together.

There are two sets of needs: short-term, immediate responses and longer-term efforts that will have both a deeper and more lasting impact. It is our hope that we can support and galvanize others to support both efforts. We welcome other funders who would like to work with us.

Stage 1: The first stage is designed to provide the impetus and support for diverse organizations to work together with the common goal of fighting the tide of intolerance. We hope that these partnerships will lead to long term solutions, but we fully recognize that the longer-term plans will take time to put together. We expect that these initial grants will be smaller in size and aimed at funding very short-term projects.

Stage 2: We also intend to announce a program aimed at longer-term approaches at a later date. You do not need to participate in this immediate effort in order to submit proposals for longer-term initiatives. We know that many of the more impactful plans will take time to form and we want to give organizations time to develop those proposals in a more thoughtful way.

### **Stage 1: Leo Nevas Collaboration Grants**

The rise of broad based open bigotry in the public sphere is stunning and unprecedented in recent history. It targets a wide range of groups, all of which are integral to the fabric

of America and critical to America's future. To be most effective, the response must involve collaboration between and among targeted groups and allies.

"Leo Nevas Collaboration Grants" are intended to fund collaboration between multiple groups that results in urgent, emergency responses to the rise of bigotry in the United States driven by the rhetoric in the public sphere.

Grants will be made to collaborations between multiple partner organizations representing multiple constituents (e.g., an application including a Jewish organization, a Muslim organization, a Latino organization and a Christian organization). Secular, civil rights, civil society and similar organizations are encouraged to participate. There are no upper limits on the number or breadth of the organizations included. However, given our founders' involvement with Jewish organizations, we will give priority to collaborations which include at least one Jewish organization.

Most grants will range in size from \$10,000 to \$50,000. Exceptional applications or initiatives may receive larger grants. Grants shall be awarded jointly to two or more organizations that demonstrate a clear intent and framework for collaboration to achieve greater effectiveness. A portion of the grant will be paid to each participating organization.

These one-time grants are intended to fund short-term, immediate collaborations to speak out, communicate, activate, mobilize and catalyze an urgent, emergency response.

Possible uses of this grant include (but are not limited to):

- Media campaigns
- Social media and online organizing
- Building the framework for future, longer-term collaboration, including convening leadership to plan future action
- Galvinizing individuals and other groups to broad action
- Efforts to influence policy

Applications will be evaluated as they are received with the goal of making immediate funding decisions to affect immediate change. We expect that most Stage 1 grant decisions will be made and funded by the end of December 2016, reflecting the urgent nature of the grants.

### **Minimum Qualification Criteria**

In order to be considered for a Collaboration Grant, each partner agency included must meet the following minimum criteria:

- 1) Be designated by the IRS as a 501(c)(3), tax-exempt organization or have a verifiable 501(c)(3) fiscal agent
- 2) Have an active Board of Directors
- 3) Have a professional Executive Director who is accountable to the Board of Directors
- 4) Have a certified independent financial audit and IRS 990 tax form, or similar form if the 990 is not required

### **Selection Criteria**

- 1) Organizations must apply jointly for this grant and intend to work closely together to maximize impact. Organizations must demonstrate how they will use the grant to collaborate to achieve outcomes and impact that would not be possible (or as

successful) if working alone. We realize that cross-organization collaboration can be challenging, but the results can be impactful. This grant is designed to reduce the challenges and maximize the impact at a time when so many groups are being individually singled out.

- 2) Preference will be given to consortiums that:
  1. Include greater diversity in terms of the communities served by the partners involved.
  2. Include at least one Jewish member (reflecting our founders' involvement in the Jewish community).
  3. Have broad geographic impact (preferably national) or address broad audiences. The focus of this grant is exclusively within the United States.
- 3) For this grant, speed and impact will both be considered.
- 4) All grantees shall be required to submit a final report and provide informal updates as appropriate.

### **Leo Nevas Collaboration Grant Application Process (Stage 1)**

#### Step 1: Indication of Interest

Please submit an indication of interest answering the following questions. The total length should be 2-4 pages. This short indication is designed to open the conversation with the Nevas Foundation and not waste organizations' time and resources. We realize that such a short submission will certainly be incomplete. Given the urgent, short-term nature of this grant, we urge collaborations to submit the indication of interest as soon as possible, even if details of the initiative are still under discussion.

Please include:

- 1) Organizations applying. For each organization, please include:
  - a. Name of the organization
  - b. Contact information (name of the individual, telephone number, email and website)
  - c. Very brief overview of core mission and programs
  - d. Briefly describe the community and/or population the organizations serve, including the geographical location(s)
  - e. History of past collaboration—formal or informal—between the organizations (if any)

*Please designate one individual who is coordinating the application on behalf of the consortium.*
- 2) A statement that the application meets the minimum qualification criteria.
- 3) Proposed request:
  - a. Please briefly describe how this grant will be used to address the rise in bigotry. Please include the following in your response:
    - i. What specific activities will the grant fund?
    - ii. How will the organizations work together?
    - iii. How does the collaboration align with the mission and goals of the partners involved?
    - iv. What will constitute short-term success? How will you measure this (qualitative? quantitative?)?
    - v. How will your short-term success support or facilitate long-term impact?

- vi. What is the timeline to execute your plan?
- vii. Please provide us with an understanding of the budget necessary to undertake the plan.

Step 2: We will follow-up to discuss next steps with applicants who submit an indication of interest.

Submission:

Please submit indications of interest by email (pdf preferred) to:  
[collaborationgrant@nevasfoundation.org](mailto:collaborationgrant@nevasfoundation.org)

Please include "Indication of Interest" in the subject line. We also welcome questions before you write a full indication of interest.