NORTHBRIDGE
TECHNOLOGY ALLIANCE

Helping people change the world

Northbridge Technology Alliance is pleased to announce our 2019 technology grant for socially progressive leaders who are engaged in social justice and community building work.

Grant Overview

This year's grant cycle is available in support of missions that align with these social challenges:

Community Engagement for Strong Neighborhoods: Metropolitan Chicago

Health Equity Advancements: State of Illinois

Systemic Racial Equity: United States

Human Rights: International

This grant provides access to web-based meeting technology, allowing for several activities such as:

Call-to-action **broadcast webinars** to an entire community, right into their homes

High-quality, instructor-led **volunteer trainings** without requiring your volunteers to travel.

Fully collaborative, video-based **Board meetings** with directors around the world

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis

Please send questions to grants@northbridgetech.org.

Frequently Asked Questions [i]   **Online Grant Application**[ii]

Grant Scope

The emerging landscape of web-based ("virtual") meeting technology introduces compelling possibilities for advancing the reach and influence of socially progressive, mission-driven work. The array of options is bewildering! Webinars, remote classrooms, video chats, video-based meetings, live-stream media… many struggle to articulate with clarity, to funders, administrators, and constituents, the full range of possibilities with respect to remote web-based meeting formats,

purposes, and vendors.

Through this grant, our grantees are trained to determine if, and how, web-based collaboration technology can be used to advance their social mission. With a fully equipped remote web meeting room at their disposal for the duration of the program, they gain the technical expertise to make those decisions. Through our guided program they emerge with a straightforward road map for their own technology adoption that is customized to their specific practice and needs. Finally, they become eligible to take advantage of the major cost benefits of Northbridge Technology Alliance's highly selective membership program, with benefits like ongoing training and community networking opportunities.

This grant provides

- an instructor-led training path for our grantees to explore and practice, hands-on, the various types of web-based meeting formats, applying the technology to their specific real-world project goals

- a six-month guided planning process that yields a road map for their future technology adoption

- six months of a dedicated conference room in our full-featured virtual web conference center, Nexus Web Meet. The room can be configured to provide a variety of state-of-the-art remote meeting configurations, such as broadcast webinars, remote classrooms, remote meetings, and video chat sessions. Advanced features like recording/playback and desktop sharing are included. (Live Demo)

- the option to take advantage of Northbridge Technology Alliance's selective membership program, providing continuous access to our web-based meeting technology and influence on our ongoing community-owned software projects

The monetary value of this grant is $5,000. This includes six months of comparable remote web meeting service averaged across a number of leading vendors (such as Zoom and WebEx) combined with high-quality instructor-led training and consultation for up to eight staff members.

Grant Eligibility

This grant is available to teams working toward missions that are aligned with the following social challenges and geographies. Our grants are intended to be inclusive and to reward imaginative, collaborative teams who are advancing project work of any scale, at any stage. If you have questions about your team's eligibility, please send an email to grants@northbridgetech.org.

Community Engagement for Strong Neighborhoods: Metropolitan Chicago

Any team working to build peaceful, just, and sustainable neighborhoods across Metropolitan Chicago.

Health Equity Advancements: State of Illinois

Any team working toward uniformly equitable health care across socio-economic disparities in the state of Illinois.

Systemic Racial Equity: United States

Any team working, on a large or small scale, to advance racial equity somewhere in the United States. We aim to support teams that are working toward outcomes designed to interrupt, even at a micro-level, practices, policies, and belief systems that make up the broad ecosystem of systemic historic race-based oppression in the United States.

Human Rights: International

Any team working, on a large or small scale, to advance human rights across the globe.

Many nonprofit grants are awarded to single organizations. However, at Northbridge we have found that the most interesting and effective social progress is being accomplished by collaborative, cross-organizational efforts and by smaller, grass roots, community-based activism. We find that we can be most flexible with a variety of situations by considering the project team (or committee, work group, task force, Board, etc), as the grantee unit. Here are some examples of the variety of structures that are potentially eligible

- a task force or committee working within a local faith community
- a staff committee fulfilling the work of a traditional nonprofit service-oriented program
- a Board of Directors

- a grass-roots, community-based activism group

- a local chapter of an NGO

- a cross-organizational, collaborative task force

Eligible teams must be operating within one of these charitable contexts

- an informal community-based initiative with a budget of less than $10,001 USD, or

- an initiative supported by, fiscally sponsored by, or acting under the direct supervision of a charitable and/or tax exempt corporate structure in good standing according to applicable state and United States federal stipulations, or

- an initiative supported by a tax exempt or otherwise regulated charitable corporation, outside the US, governed according to the applicable laws of the country of origin.

Grant Requirements

Northbridge Technology Alliance understands ourselves to be an active and engaged partner with our grantees; our intention is to significantly increasing your capacity to create the social progress that your mission describes. We have removed significant cost and knowledge obstacles for our grantees. We provide excellent tools and training , for "free"... but, as the saying goes, it's "free like a puppy!" There is also work our grantees must do in order to realize the boost of web based remote technology in their day-to-day operations.

Once accepted into the program, our grantees are required to

- Designate a grant administrator, responsible for overseeing fulfillment of these requirements

- Designate a technical liaison, a point of contact for technical support during the course of the grant cycle (may be the same person)

- Complete the program, a series of instructor-led training and worksheets, within the designated time frames

- Using the guided outputs of the training cycle, complete their technology adoption road map strat

Grant Application

[Online Grant Application](#)

Please refer to these guidelines while completing the online application

Impact Area

Please select which of the impact areas you are most closely aligned. (Our award capacity is not segmented by impact area, so there is no competitive advantage between areas.)

Email Address

Please enter the email address of the person who will be responsible for overseeing the fulfillment of this grant within your organization.

Group or Team Name

Fill this with a formal or informal name for your team, committee, work group, task force, or Board. Examples:

"Race Matters Committee",

"Northbridge Board of Directors"

Mission/Purpose

Provide a formal or informal mission statement, or statement of purpose, for your team and project. This should be the guiding day-to-day purpose of your work. For a staff team of a nonprofit or a community activist group, this may be the same as your organizational mission statement. For a task force or committee working out of a local church, temple or mosque, this may be an ad hoc statement of purpose specific to your work.

Also, in the same text area, please provide a brief and simple explanation of how your mission fits into the target impact areas for this grant. Your intended impact may be broader or more specialized than our target impact areas. In any case, describe the connections.

Reach

Tell us about the populations and geographical boundaries you are working within. How do these fit within the target geographies for this grant? Your geographic constraints may be

identical, larger or smaller than our targets geographies. In any case, describe the connections.

Leadership/Accountability

How are your service goals, methodologies, and outcome measurements influenced, represented, and evaluated by the communities that you serve?

We award grants to teams who are authentically and intentionally accountable to communities who are under-represented within dominant cultural power structures. This can take a variety of forms depending on your specific context so this question is open-ended and may include things like biographical information about key team members, information about funding sources, evaluation and feedback mechanisms, etc. What we are listening for overall is the nature of your accountability to the communities you intend to strengthen.

Technology Use

Out of your current understandings, how do you think that web meeting technology could advance your work?

Likely you already have some reason to be interested in remote web-based collaboration technology, even if your understanding is fuzzy or incomplete. Please tell us about your current ideas of how this type of technology could further your work. Examples:

"My committee is scattered all around the Chicago area. We want to meet more frequently and also drive less, especially in the winter!"

"We want to give regular deliver monthly updates to our neighborhood. We wonder if we could use a webinar for this, how much it would cost, and how hard it is to do."

"Adobe Connect is causing us some frustration. We want to understand what other options might be available to us"

Grantee Commitments

Please confirm that, if you are awarded this grant, you are willing and able to meet the requirements for grant recipients that are described on page 4.

Grant Application Deadlines

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

![NORTHBRIDGE TECHNOLOGY ALLIANCE logo]

Once enrolled, grant fulfillment check-points occur periodically and are described with your onboarding materials.

Questions?

Some common questions are answered here in our [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Do you have additional question? Drop us a line an email to grants@northbridgetech.org.

i   Frequently Asked Questions: http://northbridgetech.org/downloads/Whitepaper_GrantGuidelines.pdf

ii   Online Application: http://northbridgetech.org/apps/members/grant