

## **Grounded Strategies**

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### **OVERVIEW**

Resilient communities are comprised of strong social networks and accessible resources that enable residents to address both chronic stressors and acute shocks that may affect their health and well-being.

Now through June 2019, Grounded will offer a range of customized interventions in partnership with 24 distressed or underserved communities with high levels of vacant land throughout Allegheny County working toward improving community health. Through our people and places approach, Grounded will provide technical assistance and direct financial support for land use interventions, strategic data collection, community capacity building activities, and ongoing partner collaboration in the effort to increase the resilience of vulnerable communities.

### **GOALS**

1. Strengthen the resilience of communities and residents through capacity building and direct support
2. Diversify Grounded's blight portfolio by stacking resources and building partnerships

### **TIMELINE**

Completed applications for the next round of ReGen are due on or before June 1, 2018. Notifications will be made by June 22, 2018. Applications received during this round should be prepared to begin in early July 2018.

**Application also available online at:** <https://groundedpgh.org/projects/regen/>

## ReGen Application

Thank you for your interest in the Resilience Generation program! Please tell us about your organization and reason for request.

<b>Name of Organization or Group</b>	
<b>Provide a statement of the technical assistance you are seeking.</b>	
<b>Contact person's name and title</b>	
<b>Contact phone number</b>	
<b>Contact email address</b>	
<b>Primary contact for this specific project (if different than the person submitting ReGen application)</b>	
<b>If awarded, are you able to start the project in the coming weeks?</b>	
<b>Service(s) you are interested in. Please check any/all that apply.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Data collection &amp; analysis</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Land use planning</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Greening / implementation projects</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Engagement, celebration, &amp; storytelling</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Education, training, &amp; workshops</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Policy recommendations &amp; program design</li> </ul>

## ReGen Project Proposal

Please answer the following questions so we can best determine the need and eligibility of your project proposal. If you use a separate document for your responses, please clearly label each question and address each question separately. Thank you!

### Organizational Information

1. Summarize your organization's mission and history, and outline your current capacity. *1-2 paragraphs*
2. Describe the population your organization serves.
3. Who else is working in your community and how does your organization relate to those efforts?

### Problem Statement

1. Describe the specific challenge you are hoping to address and how you think Grounded can help. *1-2 Paragraphs*
2. How does your proposal fit with Grounded's mission and [approach](#)?
3. Describe any resources, funding, or other technical assistance that would be utilized for this project. Include the potential for leveraging additional resources if awarded.
4. How will you know your project efforts have been successful?
5. How does your project fit within the context of other plans, programs, or initiatives? What are the next steps for this project effort?

### Attachments:

Please feel free to include any attachments, documentation, or letters of support that you feel would complement your application.

## FAQs

### **Q: How much is a technical assistance award worth?**

A: Community awards will range from \$5 - 30k of direct and indirect resources.

### **Q: What does an award include?**

A: Direct support may include participant stipends, mobile technology, mini grants, hardscape and software materials, and educational opportunities.

Indirect support may include matched staff time, data collection and analysis, design support, education and training, inclusive and facilitated community planning, and project implementation. It is important to note that even though we have a framework for activities, each effort will be customized to the partner and community based on needs and goals.

### **Q: Who is eligible to apply?**

A: Any community-focused group with dedicated capacity, community priorities, and goals is eligible to participate (community can range from entire municipalities to neighborhoods to cluster groups). While you are not required to be a registered 501(c)3, we are seeking groups who have the ability to actively participate in the projects and are willing and able to carry the work forward after the engagement is over. Some examples may include community development corporations, block watch groups, garden clubs, or municipal departments.

### **Q: How do we apply?**

A: Download the application and return the coversheet, your responses, and any relevant attachments to Grounded Strategies before the due date. You can email the completed application to [regen@groundedpgh.org](mailto:regen@groundedpgh.org), or mail the completed application to Grounded Strategies at 6587 Hamilton Ave #1W, Pittsburgh, PA 15206. Mailed applications must be postmarked on or before the due date.

### **Q: How often will applications be reviewed?**

A: Grounded is accepting applications on a quarterly basis. Visit our website for specific application dates. Once received, we will review applications within 1-2 weeks of the due-by date, receive input from our advisory committee, and respond to the main contact listed on the application with feedback, additional questions or next steps.

### **Q: How many awards are there?**

A: Our goal is to onboard around 3 new projects every quarter, but this may be adjusted due to nature and timing of projects as they are being developed. Current funding allows Grounded to work with approximately 24 communities over the next 2 years.

**Q: How long will these resources be available?**

A: We currently have funding projected to last until the spring of 2019, anticipating that we accept the last partner applications by Quarter 4 of 2018 to ensure enough time to finish all programming. It is our goal to find ways to extend this opportunity, so stay tuned.

**Q: What can I apply for?**

A: Examples of available services and sample project descriptions are below, with links to sample project pages.

- **Data Collection & Analysis:** Data collection and analysis is important, but can be expensive and unwieldy for small organizations to embark upon. Examples of projects that have been done include mapping the vacant land in your community, or overlaying youth focused environmental programming with vacant land to target specific areas for intervention.
- **Land Use Planning - Land Use Planning** can be helpful in trying to understand questions such as *“where does green space fit in my neighborhood?”* and *“How does this fit into my community plan?”*
- **Greening and Implementation Projects:** If you have a specific land use project in mind, or have already done land use planning and data analysis to establish the most effective place to install green stormwater infrastructure, this category is right for you. Our team of designers and skilled implementers is well versed in projects, such as Green Playces and community based GSI.
- **Engagement, Celebration, and Storytelling:** Use engagement and celebration events to frame an activity around a question. Solicit community input on a potential project, get input from people who aren't usually out, or celebrate something great happening in your neighborhood and use the event to engage your neighbors. Examples of these types of projects include Grounded on the Go events or pop-up mobile engagements.
- **Education, Training and Workshops:** These events are great for creating a more engaged and informed community. Examples of projects from this category could range from small, one day conferences focused on specific issues, such as Land Lab, to more intensive group trainings around crowdfunding.
- **Policy Recommendations or Program Design:** From ensuring your municipality's programs are more transparent to making policy recommendations based on best practices. Examples of projects that we have recently completed from this category include the Junior Ambassador model, community development and resilience, and the LandCare program.

**Q: How will applications be selected?**

A: Communities will be selected through a range of criteria that includes existing capacity, alignment with broader community plans, alignment with partner geographic and issue areas, and ability to leverage efforts, among other criteria. Grounded reviews each application and then passes them off to the ReGen Advisory Committee, comprised of community partners and agencies. The ReGen Advisory Committee

provides feedback that contributes to the final evaluation and scoring of the applications.

**Q: How will I be notified?**

A: We will make every effort to give direct feedback to each applicant within 2 weeks of the deadline. If not accepted, we will let applicants know how they can make their applications stronger or suggest other resources that may be more applicable to the identified needs.

**Q: Can I apply multiple times?**

A: Yes, if not successful, we encourage reapplying in future rounds. We have not yet determined if we will allow a group to apply for a follow up project after a successful application. We will keep the FAQs updated as that decision is made, so check back!

**Q: Can an individual apply?**

A: No, these resources are aimed at building and strengthening capacity and resilience in communities. While individuals play an important role, we believe it is the collective effort of many that achieves highest and best potential for long-term impact.

**Q: Do I need to have matching resources to apply?**

A: While it is not required, matching resources (funding, capacity, partnerships, data, etc.) are all welcome and may strengthen consideration of your application.

**Q: I have never worked with Grounded before, does this matter?**

A: No, we are always seeking to expand our network of partners. Though there may be some efficiency gained if we have worked with you in the past, but this is not a factor that will necessarily affect your ability to participate.

**Q: How did the ReGen program get started?**

A: In 2016, Grounded received funding from the Henry L. Hillman Foundation to create custom intervention with approximately 24 community partners over a three-year period. Grounded and our partners will work towards increasing resilience of vulnerable communities through our people and places approach. Examples of projects that have been awarded technical assistance include the Millvale Community Library: to increase engagement in community planning and programming, Southwest Pittsburgh Community Development Council (SWPCDC): to complete a vacancy and blight assessment in order to plan green infrastructure projects, Community Alliance of Spring Garden – East Deutschtown: to convert existing gardens so they are accessible to the elderly and disabled, and Sankofa Village Community Garden: to support community event series to increase community’s awareness of, connection to, and interaction with resources that can improve long-term health outcomes.