Maurice A. Clay Leadership Development Initiative Grants – Application Review

The OΔK National Awards Committee reviews applications for the Maurice A. Clay Leadership Development Initiative Grants each fall. This document includes the criteria by which the grants are judged and some tips to help circles submit competitive applications. Please use this document as a guide when preparing a Clay Grant application.

Clay Grant Awards

OΔK awards Clay Grants in variable amounts, from $100 to $1,000. There is a $9,000 pool of funds available. Awards are generally around $500. However, if a circle only needs $250 and requests that, then that allows other circles to apply for more. The committee also reserves the right to award some, but not all, of an applicant’s funding request. The National Awards Committee will make the best use of available funds to fund as many circles as possible. In applying for a Clay Grant, consider carefully the funds actually needed for your program. You may be more likely to receive $250 to fund the cost of a leadership workshop than $750 toward a $10,000 University event of which the circle is only a small sponsor.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Two grants are dedicated to programs that support the leadership development of historically underrepresented and marginalized populations or seek to bring leaders together to address issues of racial and ethnic injustice in their campus community. To be considered for this, applicants must select “yes” to this question in the application.

The 2023 grants are for programs that occur between January 1, 2023 and November 30, 2023.

Criteria for Award

Program Details

- **Leadership development focus** – The program must have leadership components such as instruction, personal growth or leadership in action. Service projects are acceptable but they should describe how leadership development of members or the campus community will be one of the outcomes.

- **Furthers circle engagement with the campus community** – The program is designed to have the circle more engaged with campus programs and organization and/or engaged with community partners beyond the campus. The important factor is that the circle is engaging in activity beyond just their members. The program should enhance the image, reputation, and exposure of the circle on the campus.
- **Supports new programs, or enhances existing programs** – Clay Grants are intended to support either new programs, or expand a currently existing program to add a new component. Applications which request funding for an existing program, but do not specify how the funds will support a new addition to the program, will not be considered. The application must specify how circle members will actively be engaged in the planning and execution of the event.

- **Evidence of collaboration with leaders across campus and demonstrates one or more the five pillars** – Collaboration is one of O∆K’s five values. Clay Grants are designed to encourage circles to collaborate with other student organizations, university departments, and/or community groups. Collaborative events are more likely to help build the brand and reputation of the circle on campus.

**Application Quality**
- **Quality of Program Brief** – A concise explanation and outline of the project. This description should include an outline of the overall goals of the project, the connection to specific curriculum standards, and how the project will be implemented.

- **Detailed Plan** – Detailed description including these elements: planned activities, presenters/planners, marketing, locations, and expected attendance.

- **Description of Funding** – Describe how the funds will be used including the breakdown between the circle’s contributions and those of any other organizations partnering with O∆K.

- **Description of Evaluation** – Provide a clear explanation of the proposed evaluation with methodology, timeframe, and reporting.

- **General Quality of Submission** – Applications are expected to be professionally and clearly written, and should not have spelling or grammatical errors.

**Bonus Points**
- The circle has not been supported previously by Clay Grant
- The circle is new (two or fewer years old)

**Application System**
O∆K utilizes Kaleidoscope to process grant and scholarship applications. The Clay Grant application will be open from Sept. 15, 2022 to Oct. 30, 2022. The link is available online beginning Sept. 15.

We encourage circles that are considering applying for the grants to attend the **Circle Programming Webinar, 12:30-1:30 p.m. EST Tuesday, Oct. 4.** [Click here](#) to register for the webinar. For additional assistance, please email programs@odk.org, or **schedule a time** to speak with Jamie Bouldin, Director for Membership Services.