**2023 Livin’ The Dream Grant FAQ**

Thank you for applying for the 2023 Livin’ the Dream grant presented by the NC Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission. The purpose of the commission is to encourage appropriate ceremonies and activities throughout the State relating to the observance of the legal holiday honoring Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday; to provide advice and assistance to local governments and private organizations across the State with respect to the observance of such holiday; and to promote among the people of North Carolina an awareness and appreciation of the life and work of Martin Luther King, Jr.

The purpose of this grant is to empower small organizations and nonprofits whose missions align with Dr. King’s vision of racial and economic equality for all people. We are offering up to $5,000 in funding through capacity-building seed grants for emerging nonprofits and community action groups. Below, you will find answers to frequently asked questions about the grant as well as contact information for technical support and assistance in applying.

***What is the commission's focus through the Livin’ The Dream grant?***

Through this grant funding opportunity, The Commission seeks to increase the organizational capacity and impact of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and/or People of Color) led, grassroots organizations based in North Carolina who advance the vision of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

***When may I apply and where can I find the application?***

The grant application is currently open. Applicants may access a link to the application through the MLK Commission page via the [NC Department of Administration - MLK Commission Website](https://ncadmin.nc.gov/boards-and-commissions/nc-martin-luther-king-jr-commission). Applicants may also download a [PDF](https://ncadmin.nc.gov/media/14610/open) or Word version of the grant and submit via email at mlk.commission@doa.nc.gov.

***How long will the application remain open?***

The application is open and will be available until 11:59 pm January 18th, 2023. All applications must be submitted via the MLK Commission email address: mlk.commission@doa.nc.gov or through the DOA website by the application deadline.

***How large are awards and how many will be dispersed?***

Through the Livin’ the Dream grant, The Commission will distribute a total of $25,000 in funding to local groups, organizations, and nonprofits. Five awards of up to $5,000 will be awarded.

***What is the process? When will I hear back?***

At the close of the application process, subcommittee members of the MLK Jr. Commission will review, score, and make award determinations. Awards are to be announced in February of 2023.

***Am I required to have a 501(c3) status?***

Your organization is not required to have a 501c3 status to be eligible for a grant award. However, organizations without a 501c3 status must acquire a fiscal agent, a registered nonprofit to administer the grant. All applications submitted via fiscal agency will be required to provide a Memorandum of Understanding that verifies your relationship.

***If awarded a grant, are there reporting requirements our organization*** ***will have to meet?***

Each grantee will be required to submit a simple, six-month report on how the funds were spent and the impact of the funding on your organization and/or community. Details of reporting format will be given upon award announcement.

***Is any organization or project ineligible for this grant?***

Grants cannot support individuals, organizational funding deficits, for-profit businesses

organizational projects, food, and initiatives that do not advance the purpose of racial justice, environmental justice, cultural events, journalism, health equity, and economic equity.

***What are suggested uses for the funding?***

Here are some suggestions for ways the funding can be used (but not limited to): Hiring a grant writer, purchase of computers and other equipment (not for individual ownership), leadership training, web development, graphic design, organizational development (e.g., board development, financial sustainability, etc.), staff development (e.g., mental health and trauma informed care trainings, etc.), speakers and facilitators, filing the organization as an entity with the NCSOS and establishing a 501c3 with the IRS, needs assessments and feasibility studies.

***What if I need assistance?***

The Commission has contracted Ashley Daniels of Speak Life Consulting to provide office hours to answer inquiries and support applicants in navigating the grant process. An informational webinar is scheduled for Friday December 16th at 3 pm. You may sign-up for one-on-one assistance at <https://calendly.com/speaklifeconsulting/livin-the-dream-grant-applications> or call (910) 444-1733 for additional support.