OVERVIEW
Advancing Equity & Belonging – Grant Fund

Introduction
The Advancing Equity & Belonging - Grant Fund is a dedicated financial resource committed to fostering inclusive and equitable tools, practices, and initiatives. This fund has been established to empower your project to promote a sense of belonging among all members of your project, grow your equity & belonging skills across your project, and provide necessary resources to support your success. We recognize the importance of addressing historical injustices, promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion, and creating a more equitable future for everyone.

Purpose
The primary purpose of the Advancing Equity & Belonging - Grant Fund is to provide financial support to projects engaged in advancing equity, promoting belonging, and creating an environment where every person is valued, respected, and given equal opportunities.

This support may be used for:
1) Hiring an Equity & Belonging (E&B) consultant for workshops, training and skill building.
2) Hiring an E&B consultant to support the development of a specific E&B plan/strategy.
3) Hiring a grant writer to access E&B funding for your project.
4) Hiring a coach to address specific E&B challenges for staff.
5) Other E&B focused efforts.

Grant Pool Funding
NVF will fund the grant pools annually through their budgeting process and will require their board’s approval. The total grant pool may vary year by year. Grants will be made each year until the grant pool is depleted; once all funds are used, unfunded proposals must wait until the following budget cycle for consideration. The maximum grant award per project per grant year will be $10,000. Projects can apply for funds once every three years with a lifetime total of $30,000. Grant funds received by projects must be used within twelve months of receipt.

Eligibility Criteria
To be eligible for funding from the Advancing Equity & Belonging - Grant Fund, applicants must:
• Be an active project at New Venture Fund for at least a year with a spin date of a minimum of two (2) years from the application date.
• Demonstrate a clear commitment to learning, growing and advancing equity, diversity, and belonging.
• Present a clear proposal with anticipated benefits to the project and project staff.
• Provide a detailed budget that outlines how the grant will be used to support the initiative.
• The project cannot be in the red zone at the time of application.

Application Process
Grant Proposal: Applicants can submit one application per year for a maximum annual award of $10,000. During our pilot year, submissions will be accepted during the open award periods noted in the application. Applicants
will complete the online application, including project details, budget, timeline, and anticipated benefits to the project/project staff and the fund’s equity & belonging goals.

*Review and Selection:* Proposals will be reviewed by the Equity & Belonging Council with a final recommendation to each fund’s designated leadership for approval. Selection will be based on alignment with the fund’s goals and potential for positive impact.

*Grant Award:* Successful applicants will receive grant awards to support their initiatives.

*Reporting and Evaluation:* Grantees will be required to provide mid- and end-of-cycle progress reports and participate in impact assessments to ensure that the fund's objectives are being met effectively. In addition, by participating in the program projects will be required to share the vendors/consultants your projects engaged with along with a recommendation for future use by other projects.

**Conclusion**
The Advancing Equity & Belonging - Grant Fund is committed to supporting projects and project staff working to create a more just, inclusive, and equitable world. Through financial support, this fund aims to amplify the efforts of those striving to eliminate barriers, foster belonging, and promote equity in every facet of your work. Together, we can build a strong, shared culture where everyone's voice is heard, and every individual belongs.

In order to facilitate your preparation for the online application process, these are the questions that will be asked:

**Project Information**
- Name of Project
- Contact Person (if applicable)
- Contact Email
- Contact Phone Number

**Grant Request Details**
- What problem are you trying to solve? (briefly describe your challenge and its connection to equity and belonging - max 250 words/1250 characters)
- Target audience (who will benefit from this work?)
- Expected impact (what positive changes do you anticipate because of this grant?)
- Timeline (start and end dates)

**Funding Request**
- Amount requested (specify the grant amount you are requesting)
- Budget breakdown (provide a summary of how the grant funds will be used including the use of independent consultants)

**Equity and Belonging Commitment**
- How does your project align with the fund’s principles of equity, diversity, and belonging? (max 500 words/2500 characters)
- Is your project leader/supervisor aware and in support of this application?

*Thank you for your dedication to advancing equity and belonging.*
*We look forward to reviewing your application and supporting your important work.*