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# CORNELL DIF

CORNELL DIVERSITY INNOVATION FUND

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## Purpose

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The Diversity Innovation Fund is a \$12,500 fund established by the Diversity Committee of the Student Assembly to promote sustainable approaches and services that aim to make Cornell University a more accessible and/or inclusive campus.

According to the latest Diversity Dashboard on Inclusion based on the 2013 PULSE survey conducted in April 2013, 26% of the respondents were either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the sense of community on campus. The Diversity Innovation Fund seeks to provide monetary opportunities to students/student groups that seek to create a sense of a more inclusive community on campus.

The purpose of the fund is:

- **To promote sustainable approaches**

While there are various funding sources that provide funding for events and programming, funding for sustainable solutions such as websites and mobile device applications are difficult to find. This fund aims to promote such sustainable approaches, which can not only have a meaningful impact in the short term but also the long term.

- **To promote inclusivity and accessibility on Campus**

The fund will promote approaches that aim to make the campus more inclusive and/or more accessible. The fund focuses on accessibility in order to promote approaches that reduce barriers for students from any race, gender, sexual orientation, income background to access the various services and amenities on campus.

## Structure

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The fund's Appropriating Committee (called the 'committee') will be composed of a subgroup of members from the Initiatives Task Force in the Diversity Committee. This committee must not have less than 5 members and will be chaired by the Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion. This committee will meet on an ad hoc basis depending on the pending applications.

Committee members must read and understand each application packet prior to the committee meeting. The funding hearing will include a short presentation on the proposal students have applied for followed by questions by the committee members. Each proposal's funding amount must attain a majority vote of members present and voting. In the case of the tie, the committee chair will provide the tie breaking vote.

In case of conflicts of interest, committee members with conflicts of interest must abstain from voting and are recommended to not participate in discussions about the proposal in consideration.

## Guidelines

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Applications will be considered on a first come first serve basis. Each application will not be considered for more than \$6,000. Applications will be funded based on the criteria listed below:

- **Accessibility and/or inclusivity**

The most important metric for each proposal will be whether the proposal seeks to make the Cornell campus more accessible and/or more inclusive. As defined

above, making the campus more accessible/inclusive would include but is not restricted to either of the following:

- Reducing monetary/cultural barriers for students to navigate the campus
- Promoting cross cultural exchange between diverse communities
- Promoting the spread of knowledge and education related to diversity and inclusion
- Seeking to make Cornell a safer campus for students from all races, genders, sexual orientations and backgrounds

#### ▪ **Sustainability**

The committee must evaluate how sustainable the proposal is. In this regard, the proposal must have not only a short term impact but also one that is long term. Proposals such as website, mobile device applications that require technological assistance will be preferred. Programming/ one-time event related proposals will not be considered unless the committee unanimously decides on making an exception.

#### ▪ **Comprehensiveness**

Proposals with a comprehensive and well thought out plan must be given preference. A comprehensive plan will include an operating model, a budget that describes fund allocations, other fund raising sources and a comprehensive team.

#### ▪ **Viability**

Based on the information provided, the committee members must evaluate how viable is the project. Evaluation for this could include analysis of each proposals operating model and flaws/glitches in it. The purpose for this metric is to ensure that the applying team has foreseen the operating circumstances for its proposal.

## Timeline

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For Spring 2016, applications must be submitted before the following two deadlines:

- Midnight, February 17, 2016
- Midnight, March 18, 2016

The committee must meet within 1 week of each application deadline to start the hearing process for applications on a first come first serve basis.

## Form

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Applicants must fill out the form [attached here](#) or shown below. Along with this they must submit supporting material and a budget for each application no later than the deadlines provided above to the email provided in the form.

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## Diversity Innovation Fund Application

The Diversity Innovation Fund is a \$12,500 fund established by the Diversity Committee of the Student Assembly to promote sustainable approaches and services that aim to make Cornell University a more accessible and/or inclusive campus.

According to the latest Diversity Dashboard on Inclusion based on the 2013 PULSE survey conducted in April 2013, 26% of the respondents were either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the sense of community on campus. The Diversity Innovation Fund seeks to provide monetary opportunities to students/student groups that seek to create a sense of a more inclusive community on campus.

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Please fill out the form below no later than midnight February 17, 2016 to apply for funding from the DIF. Please also email any supporting material such as a budget or business plan to [sec274@cornell.edu](mailto:sec274@cornell.edu) no later than midnight February 17, 2016.

\* Required

**Please give a brief description of your proposal. \***

**How much funding are you applying for? \***

**How does this proposal aim to make Cornell more inclusive/accessible? \***

**How is your proposal sustainable? Please describe the long/short term impacts of your proposal. \***

**Please provide a detailed breakdown of how DIF funding will be utilized. \***

## Future

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The current operations of the fund are considered as a pilot project. This pilot run is expected to last till Spring 2017. Upon completion of this pilot project and exhaustion of the entire \$12,500, the Student Assembly will evaluate the success of the fund and will accordingly determine how to endow it in the future.

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