



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

Emerging Practitioners in Philanthropy (EPIP) works to strengthen the next generation of grantmakers, in order to advance effective social justice philanthropy. We achieve our mission through network-building, leadership development and advocacy efforts that lift up the value and values of the next generation. We see the inclusion of diverse voices as essential to the transformation of the field of philanthropy to a more democratic, accountable and effective public sector.

The Professional Development Fund (PDF) was established in 2005 to widen the leadership pipeline and create opportunities for skills development and personal growth of young people of color in foundations and other philanthropic institutions. Generously funded by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, PDF awards promising young practitioners of color with funds of up to \$1,000 to access to professional development training and intergenerational learning opportunities, with the intent of diversifying and retaining people of color within the sector. Since its inception, EPIP's PDF has awarded 45 young leaders from a diverse range of institutions, geographic locations, backgrounds and roles within the philanthropic field. Since the Fund was established, we have awarded close to \$45,000.

In addition to the opportunity to attend a training, national conference or regional gathering of their choice, PDF awardees are convened at a national retreat for additional skills training and personal development support. EPIP believes that growth happens over time and invests resources in deepening PDF awardees' experiences by providing additional resources and training to increase participants' success.

2010 AWARDS AND GATHERING

Recipients of the PDF award may choose to attend a conference or gathering of their choice. This year, EPIP will place special emphasis on applications to attend EPIP's national conference in Denver, CO (April 23-25). The conference will offer skills-training, peer-networking, and inter-generational learning to the next-generation of grantmakers.

Applicants may select from a variety of philanthropy conferences and gatherings designed for the foundation audience. Examples of appropriate conferences and trainings include, but are not limited to:

- Council on Foundations family, annual, or community foundation conferences
- Affinity Group conferences
- Regional Association conferences
- Trainings by other philanthropy groups

Click here to visit the Council on Foundations [Major Meetings Calendar](#) to see the most comprehensive list of the philanthropy conferences in 2010. Also visit [The Grantmaking School](#) to learn about their offerings.

Additionally, EPIP will convene all PDF Awardees at our own gathering for further skills-building, peer networking and inter-generational learning. This gathering will take place in Denver, Colorado from April 21-23. EPIP will cover most major costs for this additional trip.

ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible for a PDF award, you must meet the following criteria:

- You must be a dues-paying member of EPIP.
- You must be an emerging professional of color or young trustee in a foundation, foundation affinity group or philanthropic support institution or a graduate students studying the field of philanthropy.
- Under 40 years of age, under 5 years in the foundation field, and/or in junior positions.
- You are not a previous recipient of a PDF award.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Applicants should put serious effort into securing funds from an employer to match the amount awarded. This is an important step in encouraging foundations to prioritize the professional development of diverse emerging staff. (See the Letter of Support information for more.)

If selected, applicants must agree to participate in follow-up activities, specifically an EPIP-organized national training of awardees and guests, to take place in Denver, Colorado from April 21-23. This convening will provide additional skills-training, inter-generational learning, professional reflection, and peer-networking. *EPIP will cover the major costs for this trip.*

If you fit our membership parameters but are not a paid member of EPIP, we encourage you to [join online](#) before submitting your PDF application.

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants must submit a completed application and event registration form (see attached). In addition, please include the following support material.

❖ 2-3 page personal statement

Your narrative should address the following:

- How did you become involved in philanthropy?
- What does social justice philanthropy mean to you?
- What skills and knowledge do you hope to obtain as a result of this opportunity?
- How will this experience enhance the work of your organization?
- How will this experience enhance your professional development and career?
- Please describe any extenuating circumstances impacting your application or materials.

Note: PDF supports EPIP members who would not otherwise be able to travel and attend conferences. Therefore, your application letter should indicate financial need (i.e., let us know why that you could not secure full funding without the support provided by the Fund).

❖ Resume

❖ Letter of support from your supervisor

Your supervisor should submit a letter addressing the following:

- A recommendation regarding the needs, interests and capabilities of the applicant.
- The commitment of the organization to provide a 1:1 match for the amount being awarded. (If they will not provide a match, provide an explanation.)

Note: We strongly recommend that employers provide a 1:1 match to PDF awards. However, we recognize that there may be extenuating circumstances regarding matching funds. If this is the case in your situation, please submit an application anyhow, and include an explanation in your letter.

****Submit your completed application package by email to: pdf@epip.org by 5 pm, Eastern Standard Time on the deadline date. Any questions? Send an email to pdf@epip.org or call the EPIP office at (212) 584-8249.**

Professional Development Fund 2010 Application Deadlines

SPRING CYCLE

This round of awards is designated for applications for awards to attend a conference or philanthropic gathering taking place *between FEBRUARY 2010 thru APRIL 2010*. ****NOTE**** EPIP's annual conference is on April 23-25. Young professionals of color are encouraged to apply for this cycle in order to receive assistance to attend this gathering.

- **Application Deadline: Monday, February 1, 2010. 5 pm EST**
- **Awards Selection Announced: Monday, February 15, 2010**

SUMMER CYCLE

This round of awards is designated for applications for awards to attend a conference or philanthropic gathering taking place *between MAY 2010 thru AUGUST 2010*. Applications will also be accepted for assistance to attend the EPIP annual conference.

- **Application Deadline: Friday, March 5, 2010. 5 pm EST**
- **Awards Selection Announced: Friday, March 19, 2010**

FALL CYCLE

This round of awards is designated for applications for awards to attend a conference or philanthropic gathering taking place *between SEPTEMBER 2010 thru DECEMBER 2010*.

- **Application Deadline: Friday, June 18, 2010. 5 pm EST**
- **Awards Selection Announced: Friday, July 16, 2010**