2024 STUDENT GRANT COMPETITION

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Bennington College students are invited to submit proposals to the 2024 Projects for Peace program, which provides $10,000 of grant funding to support grassroots projects which promote peace and address root causes of conflict.

Projects must be implemented and completed during the summer of 2024 and can take place in the U.S. or anywhere in the world — *anywhere your idea to promote peace can make a difference*.

All current undergraduate students, including seniors, are eligible to apply, and group applications are accepted. International students must meet *in advance of applying* with the Internal Student Services Office for clarity on questions involving Visas and OPT. Email iss@bennington.edu to schedule a meeting.

Projects for Peace encourages applicants to use their creativity to design projects and particularly welcome proposals that include or demonstrate:

- A definition of peace, and an articulation of how the project may contribute to peace;
- An innovative approach to the issue(s) being addressed;
- Appreciation for and sensitivity to the context, communities, and cultures where the project takes place;
- Consideration of dilemmas, challenges, or conflicts that underlie targeted issues or selected approaches;
- Consideration of sustainability and/or scalability of the approach; and,
- Critical self-awareness by the grantee.

TO APPLY

Submit a proposal that includes a written statement of no more than two pages which describes the project (including need, goals, activities, timeline, and expected outcomes), along with a one-page budget.

Applicants must secure the agreement of all parties and organizations involved in the project. Documentation of agreements made with such partners (emails confirming arrangements, letters of support, etc.) are welcome as appendices to the written proposal. Applicants are encouraged to submit a letter from a faculty member in support of the project.

Visit www.middlebury.edu/projects-for-peace/summer-grants/guidance for specific guidelines and templates.

DEADLINE

All materials are due electronically to Jennifer Burg by **9:00am** on **Monday, January 8, 2024**.
Submissions in advance of this deadline are welcome.

PROPOSAL SELECTION

A Bennington College review committee will read and assess proposals over the 2024 Field Work Term to select one nominee and one alternate; these two proposals will be submitted to the Davis Projects for Peace Program. The Program will announce their final award winners during the spring term, and the winning Projects for Peace will be implemented during summer 2024.

KEY QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER WHEN WRITING YOUR PROPOSAL

The Projects for Peace review committee at Bennington College will consider the following questions when reviewing applications, so be sure that your proposal clearly shows your careful thinking about these questions:

- How familiar are you with the target area?
  Do you know the local language or, if not, do you plan to work with translators?

- Do you have mentors who know the region and have helped you design the project?
  Have you reached out to a diverse set of people?

- Have you set realistic goals that cater to your skillsets?

- Do you show a commitment to listening?
  Have you placed community members at the center of your implementation plans?

- Do you plan to partner with existing organizations?
  If not, can you justify a plan in which you will be 'on you own'?

- Do you have a clear plan to involve as many stakeholders as possible throughout the entire process?

- Are you prepared for the complexities of creating and leading a project?
  Do you have a good understanding of potential risks?

- Do you show a commitment to being as flexible and adaptive as possible?

- Do you show a commitment to staying in the community as long possible?
  Are you considering a follow-up experience?

- Do you plan to create an NGO?
  If not, can you make a case that an NGO is unnecessary for project sustainability?

- Do you have a plan to train locals to help maintain and grow the project?

- Do you have plans to connect new volunteers to your project?

Want to know more?
Contact your Projects for Peace campus liaison Jennifer Burg in Academic Services to discuss details.