About Third Wave Fund
Third Wave Fund resources youth-led reproductive and gender justice movements to advance the power, well-being, and self-determination of communities of color and low-income communities. We recognize that gender oppression is tied to classism, racism, ageism, and ableism, so gender justice can only truly be achieved when all forms of oppression cease to exist. Third Wave Fund is a fiscally sponsored project of Proteus Fund.

About the Own Our Power Fund
The Own Our Power Fund seeks to increase the agency that communities have over their organizations. Young people bring critical analysis to movements for reproductive and gender justice, especially when youth-led organizations have the resources to support their self-determination and leadership. Third Wave Fund has seen firsthand that organizations flourish when their members, leaders, and communities feel true ownership over their futures. The fund supports community-led organizations to invest in key areas that define the level of ownership groups have over their leadership, finances, and experiences. While this fund welcomes creative approaches to our three focus areas, here are some ideas of work that would be a good fit:

- **Leadership**: Executive leadership transitions that intentionally shift leadership to a member(s) of the community and support for new leaders to receive coaching, skills-building, or training
- **Financial Sustainability**: Exploration of new organizational models and mergers that encourage collaborative sustainability and development of grassroots fundraising capacity
- **Self-Representation**: Participatory Action Research and Empowerment Evaluation projects that train and empower community members to develop and conduct their own research within their communities and projects that allow community members to harness the power of storytelling
- **Communications**: Development of strategic communications strategies that help an organization better align their mission, vision, values, and ongoing work with their leadership and communities

We anticipate making 10-12 grants of $25,000 per year for two-year capacity building proposals. The Own Our Power Fund is currently funding 12 grantees through Fall 2021. Organizations with an annual budget of up to $500,000 USD are eligible to apply, with a priority on groups located in regions or focused on issues that are philanthropically under-resourced. The Own Our Power Fund does not make grants for general operating, legislative advocacy, start-up expenses, or capital campaigns.

Examples of previously funded Own Our Power Fund grants from our 2017-2019 grantees include:
- The Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women (Albuquerque, NM / 2017-2019): $30,000 for a two-year Indigenous-led financial sustainability + strategic planning process
- Girls Justice League (Philadelphia, PA / 2017-2019): $50,000 for a two-year community-based participatory action research project on the lives of Black young women and girls in Philadelphia
- Fireweed Collective (formerly The Icarus Project) (National + Virtual / 2017-2019): $45,000 for a two-year leadership development, rebranding, and strategic communications process
- TAKE Resource Center (Birmingham, AL / 2017-2019): $20,000 for a two-year Black trans women-led leadership development and skills building process (*later became a Grow Power Fund grantee)
- The WomanHOOD Project (Bronx, NY / 2017-2019): $45,000 for a two-year leadership transition, alumni engagement, and communications process
Own Our Power Fund Criteria

Own Our Power Fund applications will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- **Youth Leadership:** Young women of color and/or trans, gender non-conforming, intersex activists, and/or queer youth under 35 are a core part of planning and decision-making processes. Organizations are led by and are accountable to the communities they serve and work to grow new leadership from within those communities.

- **Gender Justice Focus:** Applicants specifically work toward gender justice and recognize that gender justice will only be achieved by also addressing racial, economic, and disability justice. This gender focus shows up in both political analysis and in programming. A deeper definition is in the box below.

- **Strategies & Activities:** Applicants provide a clear plan for their capacity-building project(s) and are able to articulate how their proposed activities increase community members’ ownership over their work, organization, and social movements.

- **Potential for Impact & Growth:** Applicants’ growth individually and within the gender justice movement will particularly benefit from capacity building support from Third Wave. Applicants want to expand and deepen their impact and are committed to increasing resilience and sustainability.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What does Gender Justice activism include?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Third Wave defines gender justice as a movement to end patriarchy, transphobia, and homophobia and to create a world free from misogyny. It is a movement that connects gender oppression to classism, racism, ageism, ableism and all other forms of oppression.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender Justice includes a range of issues that cut across many movements. It often orients the work of movements that have fought for gender and sexuality rights such as movements for feminism, LGBTQ rights, reproductive rights, sex worker organizing, and HIV/AIDS activism around the needs of folks who experience multiple forms of oppression. It might also be work that brings gender and sexuality into focus in movements that center economic justice, immigration reform, and civil rights but haven’t historically centered the leadership of women, trans, intersex, non-binary, and gender non-conforming people of color.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examples might include:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>Racial and/or economic justice</strong> that acknowledges how white supremacy, criminalization, incarceration, and capitalism negatively impact women and trans, intersex, and gender non-conforming people of color</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>Immigration justice</strong> with a focus on how women and LGBTQI people of color are criminalized as immigrants and/or within immigration systems, such as through deportation &amp; detention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>Reproductive justice and HIV/AIDS justice</strong> examining how racism, homophobia, ableism, stigma, and shame keep women and trans, intersex, gender non-conforming, and non-binary people of color from being able to make fully informed decisions about their bodies, health, families, safety, and sexuality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>Trans, intersex, gender non-conforming, and queer justice</strong> rooted in ending misogyny, patriarchy, and sexism against trans, intersex, gender non-conforming, and queer people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>Disability justice</strong> focused on ending cultural ableism and rooted in the particular ways that ableism affects women, queer, trans, gender non-conforming and intersex folks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>Anti-violence</strong> work aimed at ending interpersonal and state violence (including criminalization, surveillance, policing, and prisons) and cognizant of how violence impacts women of color, LGBTQ people, disabled people, sex workers, drug users and low-income communities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Key Dates**

More information (including registration and accessibility details) for informational webinars can be found on the Third Wave Fund website at [https://www.thirdwavefund.org/own-our-power-fund.html](https://www.thirdwavefund.org/own-our-power-fund.html).

- March 22 (M) 2021 Applications Open (~9a CT)
- April 8 (Th) Informational Webinar (2p HT, 4p AKT, 5p PT/AZT, 6p MT, 7p CT, 8p ET/AT)
- April 14 (W) Informational Webinar (9a HT, 11a AKT, 12p PT/AZT, 1p MT, 2p CT, 3p ET/AT)
- April 30 (F) 2021 Applications Due (by midnight in your time zone)
- May 24 – June 3 Virtual Site Visits (for selected applicants)
- Mid-June Decisions & Notifications
- July & August Approvals & Grant Disbursements
Submitting a Proposal

1. Begin your submission process online at https://www.GrantRequest.com/SID_5886?SA=AM. You'll be asked to create an account for your group.
2. After you have created your group’s account, or if you already have one, please visit https://www.GrantRequest.com/SID_5886?SA=SNA&FID=35039 for the Own Our Power Fund portal.
3. Once you have started your proposal, you will be able to save it and return to make changes any time before the application deadline at https://www.GrantRequest.com/SID_5886?SA=AM. You may want to gather all of your proposal materials (listed on the next page) before logging in.

** Note: The online portal is screen-reader compatible **

Once you have created a profile and logged in to the online portal, you’ll be asked to enter contact information, group information, your mission, and a brief (1-2 sentence) description of your proposal. A complete proposal will also include the following materials, which you will be asked to upload to the online portal like attachments:
- Written Narrative, submitted as a Word (.doc) or PDF file (questions provided below)
- Capacity-Building Project Budget, submitted in your own format (.xls, .doc, .pdf) or using the provided Excel (.xls) template (available on the website)
- Current Fiscal Year Organizational Budget reflecting income & expenses (including names of all foundation funders). If fiscally sponsored, please also send your sponsor’s current fiscal year budget.
- Most recently completed 990 Form (or fiscal sponsor’s if applicable)
- 501c3 IRS / EIN Letter (or fiscal sponsor’s if applicable)
- Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement Letter (if applicable)

Part I: Tell Us About Your Organization

1. How is your organization structured? What leadership bodies and staff do you have and what roles do they play in the organization? How is your leadership reflective of the communities you work with? How is your leadership reflective of a commitment to gender justice?
2. What strategies do you use regularly in your work (e.g. direct service, policy/systems change, advocacy, direct action, community organizing, healing & wellness, political education, etc) and how do you use these strategies in your ongoing programs and activities?

Part II: Tell Us How Own Your Power Fund Could Support Your Work

1. How would you use support from the Own Our Power Fund? Is your proposal focused more on leadership succession, financial sustainability, strategic communications support, and/or community-led research? Include a proposed timeline and activities, either in paragraph form or in another format such as a chart or table.
2. How will the activities you’ve proposed help you own the power and future of your organization? How will your proposed activities strengthen reproductive and gender justice movement building overall?
3. What are some of your organization’s greatest strengths and assets? What are some of the challenges you already face? What challenges do you anticipate as you engage in your proposed activities?

Part III: Tell Us How You Want to Fund Your Proposal

Using the Excel (.xls) template provided on the website where you downloaded this application or your existing format (.doc, .xls, or .pdf), list your expense categories and amounts. Examples of categories may include staff or consultant time, workshops, trainings, meeting expenses, or materials and supplies. A budget narrative is not required but is recommended if you have expenses listed that may require additional explanation.

For additional guidance on using the online application portal, refer to our How To Guide at https://www.thirdwavefund.org/uploads/3/4/7/0/34708702/twf_online_application_guide_for_applicants.pdf.

If you have questions about the online application portal, email grantsmanager@proteusfund.org.

If you have questions about the content of your application or need to submit proposal materials by email, contact Program Officer Joy Messinger at joy@thirdwavefund.org

We look forward to learning more about your work!