



Pride Across the Peach State

2026 Capacity-Building Grants

The mission of the Atlanta Pride Committee, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is to cultivate a vibrant and inclusive community for LGBTQ+ people in the Southeast by amplifying diverse voices, fostering meaningful connections, and celebrating the rich cultural expressions that unite and uplift our community. Since we began more than fifty years ago, we have believed that this work cannot be done without the partnership of other organizations serving the LGBTQ+ community in and beyond Atlanta.

For over a decade, Atlanta Pride has invested funds into community organizations that provide services and programs aligned with our mission. Since 2024, Atlanta Pride's grantmaking initiative, ***Pride Across the Peach State***, has focused on uplifting, supporting, and amplifying the efforts of local Pride organizations across the State of Georgia. These organizations embody the "grassroots" of our community. Especially in the current political and cultural climate that is increasingly hostile to LGBTQ+ people, local Pride organizations need resources to elevate and sustain the vitally important work they do with and for their local communities.

As reflected in its 2025-2027 Strategic Plan, Atlanta Pride's grantmaking seeks to build the capacity of local Pride organizations to host festivals and events for LGBTQ+ communities and their allies in Georgia to connect, celebrate diversity, build resilience, and promote inclusion. We will prioritize community-led and grassroots organizations that generally do not have access to mainstream funding sources.

Pride Across the Peach State will fund local Pride-organized activities across the State of Georgia that:

- Promote LGBTQ+ arts, culture, history, and music.
- Create opportunities for LGBTQ+ communities to connect with each other.
- Celebrate the incredible diversity of LGBTQ+ communities across Georgia.
- Raise awareness to combat LGBTQ+ discrimination and injustice.
- Enhance the long-term sustainability of organizations producing LGBTQ+ festivals.

Atlanta Pride will award **grants of up to \$5,000** to local Pride organizations to host festivals and events serving LGBTQ+ communities and their allies. By supporting these LGBTQ+ gatherings, Atlanta Pride aims to:

- Strengthen social connection and cohesion among LGBTQ+ people.
- Bolster LGBTQ+ community networks and civic participation.
- Celebrate LGBTQ+ arts, culture, history, and music across Georgia.

These events must recognize and address the many factors that shape the identities of LGBTQ+ people in Georgia. They should embrace and celebrate diversity as a way of creating inclusive, safe, and supportive experiences. Successful grants will increase the visibility of marginalized community members; they will promote understanding and embrace the complexity of people’s lived experiences. Events that are accessible, safe, inclusive, and affirming will enrich the lives of LGBTQ+ people.

Grants will focus on events that celebrate the diversity of LGBTQ+ communities. This includes:

- Trans and gender-expansive communities
- People of color
- People with disabilities
- Intersex people
- Bi/Pan communities
- Older adults
- Youth and young adults
- Faith-based communities that affirm LGBTQ+ people

Atlanta Pride will give preference to organizations hosting in-person events but will also consider applications from organizations hosting events with virtual components.

Goals

Atlanta Pride seeks to support events that connect communities, celebrate diversity, build resilience, and promote inclusion. Applicants must show how their event supports the following goals:

- ***Social connection and cohesion:*** Events should offer meaningful opportunities for LGBTQ+ communities to connect in safe and supportive ways.
- ***Intersectionality:*** Events should recognize the many factors that shape the identity of LGBTQ+ people. Events should embrace diversity as a way of creating positive and inclusive experiences for everyone.
- ***Accessibility and inclusion:*** Events should address barriers that stop LGBTQ+ people from participating fully in community life in fair and meaningful ways.
- ***Capacity-building and sustainability:*** Events should build the knowledge, skills, processes, and resources of LGBTQ+ people, equipping them to expand their event(s) and embed sustainability and resilience in their operations.

Eligibility Criteria

To apply, you must be an organization based in the State of Georgia that is a registered 501(c)(3) organization (or has a fiscal sponsor) and serves the LGBTQ+ community. We will prioritize funding for organizations with annual budgets of \$100,000 or less.

Grants will not be awarded to:

- Individuals or for-profit entities
- Political causes or candidates
- Endowments or capital campaigns
- Organizations that require participation in religious services and/or education as a condition of receiving services. Faith-based organizations that are fully inclusive of LGBTQ+ people and do not require participation in religious activity to receive services may apply.
- Organizations that have discriminatory policies and/or practices based on age, race, sex, creed, national or cultural origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identification, physical ability, veteran status, genetic information, native language, marital status, citizenship, pregnancy, health status, or any other protected class

Atlanta Pride welcomes but does not require partnerships between organizations. An eligible organization may partner with an ineligible entity on an application. A strong partnership may help your event better engage with diverse communities. You should outline proposed partnerships in your application, including financial and in-kind contributions.

Funding

Atlanta Pride intends for grants to be unrestricted and to support general operating expenses. We will not require that grant funds be designated for specific purposes or expenditures.

What activities will we fund?

The following are examples of activities that this initiative will support:

- Events and festivals celebrating LGBTQ+ community arts, culture, history, and music
- Events that promote LGBTQ+ intersectionality
- Community capacity-building events that connect diverse communities and allies
- Events that promote a greater understanding of LGBTQ+ issues and address homophobia, transphobia, biphobia, and discrimination in community settings

What activities will not be funded?

The following activities will not be eligible for support:

- Activities that do not align with the program's principles and goals
- Activities that promote or are held for politically partisan purposes
- Invite-only or members-only events
- Ticketed events where the cost of admission exceeds \$10 a person
- Activities that take place outside the State of Georgia
- Activities occurring outside the funding period
- Salaries for staff (not including event-specific staff contracted for the project period)
- Purchase of alcohol
- Travel expenses
- Funding for events or projects that are already complete

Application Process

Letter of Inquiry

Atlanta Pride invites organizations interested in receiving a Capacity-Building Grant to submit a brief Letter of Inquiry (LOI) detailing how your work aligns with our funding priorities. LOIs can be submitted via this [online form](#). You will be asked to provide the following:

1. An overview of your organization and your work, including:
 - Contact information
 - Mission statement
 - Population(s) and geography served, with demographics (if available)
 - History of relationship with Atlanta Pride (if applicable)
2. Your request to Atlanta Pride:
 - Description of event/festival
 - Anticipated impact of event/festival on your local community
 - Budget for event/festival
 - Fundraising strategy, including any secured or pending funding sources
 - Most recent 990 or financial statement (attachment)

Questions? Please contact Steven Igarashi, director of communications and community engagement, at grants@atlantapride.org if you have any questions or need assistance with the application process.

Timeline

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| March 2, 2026 | Application portal opens for Letters of Inquiry. |
| March 18 (3:00-4:00 pm ET) | Virtual information session on application criteria and process. |
| March 31 (by 11:59 pm ET) | Deadline to submit Letter of Inquiry. |
| April | Applicant organizations that appear to be a good match will be invited to meet with the Grants Committee virtually to discuss their applications. |
| May | Capacity-Building Grants announced. |
| November 15 | Deadline to expend all grant funds. |
| December 15 | Deadline to submit grant reports. |
| January/February 2027 | Atlanta Pride plans to convene representatives from grantees for learning, networking, and resource sharing. |

Reporting

All approved projects must be completed and funds spent by November 15, 2026.

Due to the competitive nature of this program, we may allocate less than the requested amount to successful applicants.

You should plan for contingencies and consider other funding sources and options in case your application is unsuccessful.

Do not assume you are successful or enter into financial or other commitments until you are formally notified of the outcome of your application.

All funded events must be free or low-cost. Admission may not cost more than \$10 per person.

If you successfully receive funding, your organization must submit a final impact and financial report after your event. Reports should be submitted within one (1) month of completing your event.

More information about reporting, including templates, will be shared with successful grant recipients.

Grants Committee – Questions for Virtual Meetings with Applicants

Purpose

- Why is this event important for LGBTQ+ people in your community?
- Which LGBTQ+ communities do you expect will take part in this event?

Goals

- How will your event celebrate or increase the visibility of LGBTQ+ communities and allies in your region?
- How will the event address intersectionality and ensure the diversity of all LGBTQ+ people is recognized and included?

Planning

- What would these funds make possible for your event and organization?
- Is this event being run for the first time? If not, how long have you hosted this event?
- Is the event free to attend? If not, what is the admission cost per person?
- Who is on your event management team? What are their relevant skills and experiences?

Marketing

- How will you promote your event to your target audience (including specific LGBTQ+ communities and the broader community, where relevant)?
- How would Atlanta Pride's support of your event be acknowledged?

Evaluation

- What outcomes do you hope to achieve with this event?
- How will you evaluate if the event has been successful according to your intended outcomes?

Sustainability

- Describe whether your organization has additional funding or resources to continue supporting this event's sustainability (if a recurring or ongoing event) or other future events for LGBTQ+ communities (if a new or one-off event).
- How is your event designed to be scalable and adaptable to changing circumstances and resources? What support do you need to ensure the sustainability of this event?