

MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Directors/Development Directors
FROM: Nat Chioke Williams, Executive Director
DATE: January 23, 2009
RE: **Request for LOI the Hill-Snowdon Foundation 50th Anniversary Fund**

Deadline for LOIs: February 19, 2009

Introduction: 2009 represents both a year of new opportunity as well as one of deeper economic hardships and challenges. This year also marks the 50th Anniversary of when the Foundation was incorporated, as well as the 10th Anniversary of when HSF began its strategic grantmaking efforts and the 5th Anniversary of becoming an independent, staffed foundation in Washington DC. To commemorate these anniversaries and to inject additional resources at a time of great need, the Hill-Snowdon Foundation (HSF) is launching a 50th Anniversary Fund, designed to promote and support 'big picture thinking', collaboration and strategic alliances across region, sector or constituency. This fund is open to HSF grantee partners only, but you are encouraged to partner with groups who are not. As funds are limited, this fund will be extremely competitive and we will only be making 4-5 grants.

Funding Priorities and Criteria

The purpose of this 50th Anniversary Fund is to allow groups the resources to step back, do some critical thinking and devise new and different ways of working collaboratively so as to increase the impact of their efforts. HSF is definitely looking for new ideas that go beyond what a group is currently doing, but it could also be used to solidify or strengthen existing relationships so as to enhance the current work. We believe that developing effective collaborations are important to building power and increasing the scale and scope of an organization's work. We will therefore provide funding to do *one* of two things: **Big Thinking or Big Action.**

Big Thinking: to be eligible for this grant you must be poised to either bring together a group of your allies to engage in specific big picture reflection or strategizing; formalize an existing but informal body of allies for big picture work; and/or develop a plan of action with your allies for big picture action. (*grant size up to \$10,000*)

Example: convening a series of meetings or a retreat with potential partners and allies to discuss common concerns. Funds can cover travel, meeting expenses and consultants or facilitation costs.

Big Action: to be eligible for this grant you must *already* have developed a formal collaboration/alliance; developed a big picture idea/initiative and plan of action; and be ready to implement your plan of action. (*grant size up to \$25,000*)

Example: Launching or expanding an existing partnership between allies regionally or around a common issue or agenda. Funds could be used to cover staff, travel, peer exchanges, meeting costs etc...

HSF is especially interested in supporting proposals that involve groups based in the South, are multi-generational and/or multi-racial. We are also open to supporting new ideas or issues that we might not have funded in the past. Groups must also agree to a documentation process.

Process/Timeline: Given the high degree of interest in applying for this Fund, HSF is soliciting Letters of Intent (LOI), providing brief descriptions of intended goals and activities. After reviewing the LOIs, HSF will request a smaller number of groups to submit a fuller, more detailed proposal in March. Site visits will be conducted by phone or in person and grant decisions will be made in May 2009.

LOI Questions:

1. Specify if you are applying for the Big Thinking or Big Action Fund (*you cannot apply for both*).

<u>Big Thinking Questions</u>	<u>Big Action Questions</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• List your partners involved in this project and briefly describe your relationship (new, emerging, existing, well-established)• Describe the overall goals and objectives of your project, and how you will achieve them. Please be specific but brief.• How does this effort represent either a new undertaking/strategic direction, or help take your existing work to a higher level• What are some of the benchmarks that you hope to meet in the coming year?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How long has the group of your allies been working together and how is the group currently organized?• What is the big/new idea that you and your partners have developed; and briefly describe your plan of action?• How does this effort represent either a new undertaking/strategic direction, or help take your existing work to a higher level• What are some of the benchmarks that you hope to meet in the coming year?

2. Provide a budget, timeline and staffing.
3. List other sources of revenue to support this project.

The LOI should be no longer than three (3) pages (12 pt font).

Please complete the following items:

1. **The enclosed Hill-Snowdon Foundation Organizational Summary Sheet; and**
2. **The above LOI questions.**
3. **Organizational or project budget.**

Please send a copy electronically to grants@hillsnowdon.org and mail two hard copies of the above mentioned documents with all attachments to:

Nat Chioke Williams
Hill-Snowdon Foundation
1301 Connecticut Avenue, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20036

Letters of inquiries must be received electronically by 5:00 PM on Thursday February 19, 2009. We will not accept proposals past this deadline. If you have any questions concerning this request, please contact Shona Chakravartty, Program Officer, at 202-833-8600 or shona@hillsnowdon.org.

Good luck and we look forward to learning more about your work.

Glossary

- **Multi-generational organizing** refers to organizing efforts that bring together youth (18yrs and younger) and adults to share leadership and power within organizing campaigns and decision-making structures (i.e., organizations, coalitions, networks, etc). For our purposes, there are two types of multi-generational organizing arrangements:
 - **Inter-generational:** where youth and adults share leadership in the design, implementation and evaluation of organizing campaigns, **as well as** the management of a particular organization (i.e. board or senior management level).
 - **Cross-generational:** where youth-led organizations/projects and adult led organizations come together in networks or coalitions to do joint work. Youth in these settings have power and leadership in the direction of the coalition's efforts, but not within the decision-making structures of the other coalition member organizations.

In both formations, we would like to see that there is a growing intentionality to develop, promote and integrate youth leadership as a “cultural” norm. Our hope in promoting multi-generational organizing is that it will create a stronger and more vital movement by utilizing the strengths of adult and youth organizers, create a pipeline for a new generation of social justice leaders and increase the sustainability of the social justice movement overall.

- **Racial Justice:** is the elimination of institutional racism in US society and the promotion of policies and strategies that support equitable participation in, and access to, society's resources and opportunities by members of all races and ethnicities. Efforts should address structurally or societal barriers that adversely impact groups of individuals and communities of color as a whole. (*adapted from the Akonadi Foundation*)
- **Civic Engagement:** is the process that draws community members into collective problem solving to improve conditions in matters affecting their lives. Civic participation may include, but is not limited to: non-partisan voter education, registration and mobilization, educating and advocating with law makers, and advocating for the adoption of better practices, policies and laws by public officials. (*adapted from GCIR*)