

Arch Community Fund

Leslie Preston Medical Hardship Grants Award Program



In honor of Arch Community Fund (Arch) Co-Founder, Leslie Preston who died in 2018 at age 51 from cancer, Arch is launching a special grants program to offer hardship assistance to activists and organizers facing advanced cancer. The mission of Arch Community Fund is to strengthen grassroots movements to resist oppression and build towards a more equitable future. At Arch, we recognize the tremendous sacrifices and challenges (burnout, financial insecurity, emotional roller coaster, work/personal balance, etc.) for those who engage in long-term movement building and transformative organizing work. This limited special grants program offers staff and volunteers organizers, especially those affiliated with our grantees, access to funds that will offset some of the emergency costs associated with their illness.

Leslie Preston dedicated her life to serving others. She started her career as a case manager for a foster care agency in Brooklyn. After receiving her MSW, she led a mobile crisis program and suicide prevention hotline in Phoenix. She moved to the Bay Area in 1998 and soon began her 19 year tenure with La Clinica de la Raza, a nonprofit community health center headquartered in Oakland. Leslie served as the Director of Behavioral Health, working tirelessly to oversee programs that provided critical prevention and treatment services for thousands of vulnerable East Bay residents. In 2016, the Bowdoin College Board of Trustees honored Leslie with a Common Good Award in recognition of her “extraordinary, profound and sustained commitment to the common good, in the interest of society, with conspicuous disregard for personal gain. In addition to her professional work, Leslie served on the Board of Directors of the Women’s Cancer Resource Center and was an active member of the Berkeley Friends Meeting.

ELIGIBILITY

Individuals afflicted with advanced cancer who have been engaged in transformative organizing for at least five years can apply for medical hardship grant awards up to \$2,500. Volunteers, staff or board members of small grassroots organizations, especially Arch Community Fund grantees, are encouraged to apply for general expenses if your work hours have been curtailed or are on disability due to your illness. We are asking for a medical diagnosis from your physician and a personal statement of your activism over the years.

HOW TO APPLY

Please submit the application located [here](#) to hardshipgrants@archcommunityfund.org. You can download a .pdf of this criteria [here](#).

APPLICATION PROCESS AND TIMELINE

Grants will be awarded on a rolling basis until the \$25,000 annual allocation for this grants award program is depleted. Funding decisions will be made monthly and a check sent directly to the recipient soon after.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions, please send an email to hardshipgrants@archcommunityfund.org and we will attempt to respond within one week.
