

The Harry Chapin Self-Reliance Awards is a small grant program providing economic resources to community-based organizations with innovative, proven and scalable solutions to ending hunger and poverty in their communities.

identifying innovation	<p>Applications: Every year, WhyHunger’s HCSRA reading committee reads hundreds of applications from nonprofits around the country working in the fields of anti-hunger and anti-poverty. Through this process, WhyHunger staff is able to identify groundbreaking programs in the US that effectively implement community-based solutions to hunger and poverty.</p>
	<p>Outreach: Receiving applications from around the US allows us to have access to an ever-expanding number of resources around the country. All of this information is stored into a database.</p> <p>Annually, we advertise the opening of the application process by reaching out to CBOs through this database. Other ways we reach out to organizations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing Justice, COMFOOD, GFJI, and other listservs; • Our website (with a PDF of the application); and • Handing out our application at conferences and events. <p>In the near future, we will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A comprehensive, yet easy-to-read web page with detailed information about the history of the HCSRAs; and • A postcard with basic information about the HCSRAs that we can hand out at conferences and events.
building capacity	<p>Award money: Cash grants of up to \$7,000 are award to ten organizations around the country doing innovative programmatic work in the fields of hunger and poverty. Applicants must provide a detailed description of the work they wish to fund, how they will implement their work, and how the funds will be used in this process.</p>
making connections	<p>Annual Awards Dinner: This event, which is partly a fundraising event and also provides a humanitarian award to an ASCAP artist, honors our ten most-recently awarded organizations. Awardees are introduced to each other, WhyHunger staff and board, as well as other attendees in the fields of anti-hunger and anti-poverty. Awardees’ programmatic work is spotlighted during an allotted time period of the event. This event takes place in New York City.</p>
	<p>Networking Day: Awardees meet once more in a more intimate and hands-on setting the day following the dinner. At this event, awardees are able to interact with each other, share best practices, and inform WhyHunger’s programmatic work. They are also given a tour of a sustainable food initiative in NYC, such as a community garden or a restaurant that uses only locally-grown and produced food.</p>

Check back here for the new application in Spring 2011!

For more information contact: hcsra@whyhunger.org