



Student Action Network for Equity Back to School 2025 Funding Information and Application

APPLICATIONS DUE ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 21ST!

Background

In 2022, Seek Common Ground launched the Student Action Network for Equity (SANE) as a supportive space for student leaders advancing racial justice, education equity, and achieving the promise of a multiracial democracy. Now, SANE is the largest national network of independent student- and intergenerationally led organizations committed to upholding public institutions, specifically public education. SANE is committed to creating sustainable youth voice by supporting state and local student- and intergenerationally led organizations and their youth leaders. One of the benefits of participating in SANE is the ability to periodically access funding through our participatory funding process where young leaders serve as decisionmakers.

Our Back to School 2025 funding window is now open! We have \$100,000 available to distribute.

Back to School 2025 Funding

Seek Common Ground's Student Action Network for Equity's Back to School 2025 funding window has the explicit goal of growing and sustaining youth-and/or intergenerationally led organizations who seek to increase their membership, support, and influence to support inclusive and excellent public schools and defend against threats to public education. Our focus states for this funding round are Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Michigan, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin. Organizations from ALL states that align with our mission (see above) are eligible and we expect we will be providing funding to groups in and outside of focus states; we encourage everyone to apply!

To receive funding, organizations must be 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations and be student- or intergenerationally led. We do not intend for this requirement to be a barrier, so please be in touch if you need more information. All funding will be distributed as contributions. Please reach out to Lydia Burns (lydia@seekcommonground.org) if you have any questions about whether your organization is eligible to apply.

To apply, organizations should answer the Back to School 2025 Request for Funding Application questions below. Completed applications must be emailed to Lydia Burns at

lydia@seekcommonground.org by **Thursday, August 21st, 2025, at 11:59PM** (Eastern Standard Time). The application is meant to be simple. We value short and succinct answers and **expect applications to be no more than 5 pages total (not counting documentation related to your 501c3 status)**. Our goal is to help you succeed, so if at any point during the process you find yourself saying “no,” “I’m not sure how to answer this,” or “I don’t know,” please reach out.

The applications will be reviewed by an intergenerational group of SANE staff and student leaders, who evaluate each application using this [rubric](#). After the review, organizations determined to be a good fit for our Back to School 2025 funding pool will be asked to sign up for a 30-minute Zoom call with our intergenerational review team so that we can learn more about your organization.

SANE will host two virtual informational sessions on the 2025 Back to School funding round where we will be walking through the process and answering any questions. We encourage all potential applicants to attend one of the information sessions. The first information session will be recorded and posted on the SANE Slack. If necessary, we will create a document of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) that will also be available on Slack.

- [RSVP: Tuesday, July 29th @ 7:30-8:30PM ET](#)
- [RSVP: Thursday, August 14th @ 7:30-8:30PM ET](#)

To be eligible for our summer funding, email your completed Back to School 2025 Request for Funding Application to SANE’s Manager, Lydia Burns at lydia@seekcommonground.org by Thursday, August 21st, at 11:59PM (Eastern).

Organizations will be notified of final funding decisions by Monday, September 29th.

If you have any questions, please contact Lydia Burns at Lydia@seekcommonground.org or if you are in the SANE Slack workspace, message Lydia (@Lydia (she/her)). All of this information, including this document, and future recordings will be available on the SANE Slack in the #Back-to-School-2025-Funding channel.

Back to School 2025 Request for Funding Application

1. Organization Name:
2. Primary point of contact (name, email, title - if applicable)
3. **Eligibility:** Is your organization a 501(c)3 non-profit organization? If not, you need to have a designated fiscal sponsor which has 501(c)3 status. Please attach to your application copies of completed [W-9](#) and [EFT](#) forms and IRS 501(c)3 determination letter for your organization or your fiscal sponsor. Additionally, please identify who we should contact should we have any questions regarding your 501(c)3 status (name, email, title). Not sure how to answer this? Reach out to Lydia Burns at Lydia@seekcommonground.org.
4. **Design/Leadership:** Tell us about your organization’s structure. How are students/youth involved in leadership, planning, and decision-making? How old are your members?

How many students are involved as members, staff, leaders, or volunteers in your organization?

5. **Alignment:** Tell us about your organization's mission and values. How is your commitment to racial justice, educational equity, achieving the promise of a multiracial democracy, and/or support for public education reflected in your current activities? How do you support inclusive and excellent public schools and defend against threats to public education?
6. **Impact:** Tell us about your organization and its goals. What is your local, state, and/or national context? What are the strategies, tactics, and activities your organization plans in the upcoming year? How would funding assist you in achieving these goals?
7. **Strategy/Long-term Vision:** Tell us about your organization's vision. Where do you see your work in the future (e.g., one to two years)? What is your equity, justice, and/or democracy vision for your school/community?
8. **Participation:** Tell us what you hope to learn and/or gain from being in the Student Action Network for Equity. How would you benefit from a network of peers?