Northbridge Technology Alliance is pleased to announce our 2017 technology grant for socially progressive leaders who are engaged in social justice and community building work.

What does this grant include?

This grant provides a vendor-neutral, guided, instructor-led training path for our grantees to explore and practice, hands-on, the various types of web-based meeting formats.

This grant also provides up to one full year of a dedicated conference room in our full-featured web conference center, Nexus Web Meet. Your room can be configured to provide a variety of state-of-the-art remote meeting configurations, such as broadcast webinars, remote classrooms, remote meetings, and video chat sessions. (Live Demo)

What can I do with a private virtual web conference room?

Here are a few examples of what previous grantees have achieved:

Call-to-action **broadcast webinar** to an entire community, right into their homes

High-quality, instructor-led **volunteer training** without requiring your volunteers to travel

Fully collaborative, video-based **Board meetings** with directors around the world

What is the monetary value of this grant?

$5,000. This includes one-year of comparable remote web meeting service averaged across a number of leading vendors (such as Zoom and WebEx) combined with high-quality instructor-led training for up to eight staff members.

Is there a catch?

No. This is a vendor-neutral grant with no financial strings attached.

What will this grant do for me?

The emerging landscape of web-based remote collaboration introduces exciting possibilities for socially progressive, mission-driven work. Also, the array of options is bewildering! Webinars, remote classrooms, video chats, formal video-based meetings... many struggle to articulate with clarity, to funders, administrators, and constituents, the full range of possibilities with respect to remote web-based meeting formats, purposes, and vendors.

With this grant, our grantees determine exactly if and how web-based meeting capability can advance their mission. They gain the technical expertise to make those decisions, with a fully equipped web meeting room at their disposal for the duration of the program. They emerge with a straightforward road map for their own technology adoption that is customized to their specific practice and needs. Finally, they become eligible to take advantage of Northbridge Technology Alliance's exclusive membership program.

Who is eligible?

This grant is available to teams working toward missions that are associated with the following geographies and goals.

- Metropolitan Chicago: Community Engagement for Strong Neighborhoods
- State of Illinois: Health Equity Advancements
- United States: Systemic Racial Equity

See the Grant Eligibility and Application Guidelines for more detailed information.

What do you mean by "this grant is available to teams?"

Many nonprofit grants are awarded to single organizations. We have found, though, that the most interesting and effective social progress is being accomplished by collaborative, cross-organizational efforts as well as by smaller, grass roots activism. At Northbridge, we find that we can be most flexible with a variety of situations by considering the project team (or committee, work group, task force, Board, etc), as the grantee unit.

What are some examples of a team you would consider?

We consider all of these common situations to be eligible

- A task force or committee working within a local faith community
- A staff committee fulfilling the work of a traditional nonprofit service-oriented program
- A Board of Directors
- A grass-roots, community-based activism group
- A local chapter of an NGO

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What is required of a grantee?

Once accepted into the program, our grantees are required to

- Complete the program, a series of vendor-neutral instructor-led training and worksheets, within the designated time frames

- Using the natural outputs of the training cycle, create their technology adoption road map and share it with Northbridge

- Three months into the grant cycle, opt in or out of a Northbridge Technology Alliance membership. Those who opt-out will have three months to complete their training and transition to their selected web meeting vendor. Those who opt-in will have their grant cycle extended for nine full months, to be followed by their paid membership term.

What's membership all about?

Membership with Northbridge is an unbeatably cost-effective way for our grantees to continue use of their private conference room in our full-featured virtual web conference center, Nexus Web Meet. Membership with Northbridge is available exclusively to Northbridge grantees and also comes with ongoing training and community networking opportunities.

Are you trying to sell something?

No. This grant is provided in fulfillment of our mission to create software solutions for charitable organizations who do social justice or community building work so that their collective impact is increased.

Grantees are eligible to opt-in, over a longer term, to the extraordinary cost-benefits of membership with Northbridge. However, ongoing membership is not a requirement of grant fulfillment.

How and when can we apply?

Deadiines and submission guidelines are described in our Grant Eligibility and Application Guidelines. The grant application form is here: Online Grant Application