



Barbershop Harmony Society  
2019 Request for Proposals  
Innovation Grants

The Barbershop Harmony Society offers grants to its subsidiary Chapters and Districts as well as other eligible 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations that support innovative internal or external projects. All eligible proposed projects must focus on the art of barbershop music/arrangements and a cappella singing. However, applicant organizations are not required to focus exclusively on barbershop music.

Innovation grants will be awarded for projects that begin on or after January 1, 2019. Applicants for an Innovation Grant must first undergo a competitive application and review process to maximize the likelihood that grantees will achieve stated outcomes. Requests for Proposals for 2019 projects will remain open until August 1, 2018. Submissions for 2020 projects will be accepted beginning January 1, 2019.

**Eligibility:**

Only Barbershop Harmony Society Chapters or Districts and other 501(c)3 organizations may apply for an Outreach Innovation Grant.

**2019 Funding Priorities:**

The Barbershop Harmony Society will accept a wide array of innovative projects for grant consideration. Special consideration will be given to projects that address inclusion needs in the communities they serve as part of our commitment to the [Strategic Vision](#) of Everyone in Harmony, which states we shall become radically inclusive across cultural, ethnic, racial, sexual orientation, social, economic, and generational lines.

Previously awarded inclusion project examples have focused on the introduction to tag singing in at-risk communities of Minneapolis and a Barbershop Revival in partnership with historically black colleges in the Carolinas District. You can read more about those project descriptions in the award summaries available on the [BHS Grants](#) page.

Other innovative projects could include, but are not limited to, expanding and improving choral education, the mentorship and support of singers/directors/artists/communities of artists, community outreach, and/or leadership development.

**Funding Guidelines:**

Beyond eligibility requirements, all applicants must first submit a letter of intent. This letter will briefly describe the project idea and design in a concise abstract. Once submitted, the applicant will be notified by August 1, 2018 if the letter has been accepted for application in the fall grant window beginning September 1, 2018.

Funds requested may be used for a variety of direct costs (i.e. sheet music, travel expenses, honorariums, etc.), but no funds will be awarded for indirect costs at this time. Indirect costs include but are not limited to director/administrative salaries, risers, equipment, uniforms, etc.

Requested funding through the Innovation Grant may only cover up to 80% of the total project cost. Matching funds of at least 20% must be covered by the organization or other secured funding.

All awarded projects will be required to submit a final report at the end of their granted project. Projects lasting the full length of the award year will be required to submit a progress report 6 months into the project as well as a final report at the end of the project.

**Required Reporting:**

In all reports submitted to the Outreach Grants Team, all projects will be required to report on several key performance indicators. These shares are reflective of the project's reach to those directly involved in the project, the beneficiaries or audience served, and the community at large. Please see the table below for share criteria.

Levels of Engagement
<b>Engagement Level 1 - Exposure</b> When a person sees or hears a barbershop performance, favorably receive general barbershop information (e.g.- Youtube views, Social Media Likes, Audience of Barbershop Performance, Literature Received)
<b>Engagement Level 2 - Interest, Limited Participation</b> When a person seeks further information, learns more, expresses desire to try barbershop (e.g.- Requests info, Requests music, Purchases music, Attends Interest Session)
<b>Engagement Level 3 - Active, Immersive Participation</b> When a person sings barbershop harmony in any event - BHS sponsored or other  (e.g.- Attend a Workshop/Camp, BHS Educational Offerings like HU, Participate in a Next Generation event or contest)

**Engagement Level 4 - Influence Others**

When a person joins as a Member, Directs a Chorus, Provides a Testimonial, Continues Curricular Engagement

**Application Review Process:**

If asked to apply in the fall window, all applications will be reviewed by both outside reviewers and an executive review team of Barbershop Harmony Society employees. These two panels will include a variety of reviewers composed of both barbershoppers and non-barbershoppers. Applications will be scored based on quality of application, how innovative the idea is, community impact anticipated, and financial implications. Notification of decisions will be made by December 1, 2018.

**Questions:**

All questions concerning the grant timeline, letter of intent, or this request for proposals can be directed to Ashley Brown, Outreach Grants Coordinator ([outreach@barbershop.org](mailto:outreach@barbershop.org)).

**Thank you!**

**You may complete your letter of intent to apply in the fall grant window [here](#).**

