



2020 Application for Mini Grant
In response to technology needs of LGBTQ communities during COVID-19

RECITALS

PowerOn ("PowerOn") is currently accepting Applications for Mini Grants ("AFMG") from organizations operating LGBTQ homeless shelters, LGBTQ centers and other organizations serving LGBTQ individuals ("Bidder").

A: PURPOSE

PowerOn is seeking Bidders in cities across the United States to apply for a grant from the PowerOn program.

When a Bidder joins the PowerOn Program, PowerOn works to provide tech hardware, information and opportunities to connect to low cost broadband, education programs for hardware and software, and research opportunities.

PowerOn accomplishes our tech distribution by accepting donations as well as collecting new and used technology from individuals and companies all over the country. The new and used technology is either refurbished for resale or responsibly recycled. From the donations, recycled technology and by working with key partners, the program purchases new technology for distribution to annually selected partner centers.

Through access to technology in the centers, LGBTQ individuals have a way to communicate with family and friends, look for health advice, obtain counseling, look for employment and much more – all of which empowers them to feel safe, provides stable connectivity and gives them the tools and resources they otherwise might not have access to. The technology also provides another connection point for the Bidder to their clients.

PowerOn invites centers to apply for a grant of no more than five (5) pieces of technology for use in the center's physical location by community members and/or clients. PowerOn does not supply technology devices to be used solely by center staff members, but devices may be used for a combination of staff and client use (i.e. connecting with clients over Zoom).

B: BACKGROUND

According to a landmark 2012 study and part of the LGBT Technology Institute's Connect 4 Life research, nearly 40% of America's homeless youth identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender. This equates to over 650,000 LGBT youth on America's streets at any given moment. These young people have often faced rejection by parents and families and abuse from their peers, leaving them without stable systems of support. When they seek help they regularly encounter service providers who lack basic competency to care for their needs or provide them with an environment free from attacks on their identities. As a result, homeless LGBTQ youth experience higher rates of depression, abuse, and suicidality and are more likely to engage in risky social behaviors. In most instances, these homeless LGBTQ youth are on the street because they came out as LGBT to their family.

Understanding the need of homeless youth to stay connected, LGBT Tech created the cell phone program Connect 4 Life. Connect 4 Life was a first-of-its-kind program developed to put mobile technology into the hands of one of the LGBTQ community's most vulnerable populations. The Connect 4 Life program brought together organizations serving homeless LGBTQ youth, local and regional government, and the tech community to offer free cell phones and a limited service plan to LGBTQ teens experiencing homelessness. Connect 4 Life's first beta test launched in the nation's capital in March 2015.

From the initial findings in Washington, D.C. and after conversations with LGBTQ shelter directors around the country, the importance of expanding this program quickly became apparent. Sustainability was one of the key findings in Washington, D.C. LGBT Tech had already started developing a relationship with a sustainable tech recycling program in 2014 called PowerOn. In June of 2016, LGBT Tech took on the lead organization role for PowerOn and for message consistency Connect 4 Life was brought under the single name PowerOn.

PowerOn is operated by LGBT Tech with support from Straight but Not Narrow. Together these organizations create the biggest impact for LGBTQ youth, adults, and elders, from lifesaving connection, tech recycling and distribution to community education and research; PowerOn is larger than distributing tech to those who need it most; PowerOn provides a lifeline.

C: DELIVERABLES

PowerOn agrees to supply necessary technology to the Bidder, as determined solely by PowerOn in consultation with Bidder, to be used upon successful completion and approval of the AFMG.

Bidder agrees to maintain the PowerOn program at the level presented in the original application or greater unless otherwise mutually agreed in writing. Bidder also agrees to assist LGBTQ individuals and center clients in the use of the technology and maintenance of the program, including any physical space the program or devices might require.

Bidder agrees to provide:

- A single signed letter of support from Executive Director.
- Proof of Non-profit Status.
- Written Proposal (see sections D & E for details).
- Optional Video.

D: PROPOSAL FORMAT

The Proposal must be provided electronically by an official of the Bidder authorized to bind the Bidder to its provisions. The proposal must include a statement as to the period during which it remains valid. This mini grant will be valid from the date the Bidder receives the technology until one year later.

To be considered, each Bidder must submit a COMPLETE proposal in response to this AFMG. Bidder's proposal must be submitted in the format outlined below. There should be no attachments, enclosures, or exhibits other than those required in the AFMG or considered by the Bidder to be essential to a complete understanding of the proposal.

E : PROPOSAL

- Business Organization and History – State the full name, address, phone, and email of your organization and, if applicable, the branch office or other subordinate element that will perform, or assist in performing, the work hereunder. Indicate whether it operates as an individual, partnership or corporation; if as a corporation, include the state in which it is incorporated. (max. 250 words)
- Narrative – Include a narrative summary description of the proposed effort and of the specific services(s)/products(s) (**list specific products and quantities**) that will be delivered. What problems have arisen due to COVID? How do you envision the technology provided by PowerOn providing help to solve these problems? How many clients is your organization serving overall on a weekly basis and what services are they using the most (top 3)? How many people will be impacted by this grant? How many people will the organization serve with the technology? A maximum of five (5) pieces of technology may be requested, to be used only within the Bidder's physical location by community members and/or clients. PowerOn does not supply technology devices to be used solely by center staff members, but devices may be used for a combination of staff and client use (i.e. connecting with clients over Zoom).
- Primary Contact – The Bidder must provide one main point of contact to oversee the implementation of the grant and provide ongoing updates and information to PowerOn. This can be the person submitting the grant or another staff member. Please note: PowerOn further reserves the right to interview the key personnel assigned by the bidder to this project and to recommend reassignment of personnel deemed unsatisfactory.

- Additional Information and Comments – Include any other information that is believed to be pertinent, but not specifically asked for elsewhere.

F : SELECTION CRITERIA

The first step is an evaluation of Bidder proposals by the PowerOn partners to ensure Bidder satisfactorily meets all of the requirements outlined within this AFMG. Proposals will be evaluated on two criteria for this purpose.

- 1) Step I – Bidder is required to be a 501(c)(3) organization **and** a homeless shelter, community center, or other organization specifically serving an LGBTQ community in the United States. Current and past PowerOn centers are eligible to apply for this grant in addition to any other grant they may have received, or be receiving, from PowerOn.
 - a) Proposal Content – The proposal must address the requirements of this AFMG and clearly outline how the PowerOn program will be integrated by the Bidder.

2) Step II – Selection and Award

For the second step of the selection process, the proposals will be considered by a Joint Evaluation Committee (“JEC”) comprised of individuals selected from the PowerOn partners. Only those proposals that satisfy the requirements described in this AFMG, as determined in the sole discretion of PowerOn, will be considered for evaluation in Step II. During the JEC review, Bidders may be required to provide additional information on their proposals to the JEC. PowerOn will award the partnership contract based on the need and underserved population of this two-step evaluation process as determined solely by the JEC and PowerOn.

G: GRANT EXPECTATIONS

PowerOn is making a significant time and funding commitment to each selected Bidder. If selected, the Bidder agrees to provide the following:

- Designated contact with contact information and organizational role.
- Ability to provide adequate, secure space for the use and/or storage of donated devices.
- Commitment to collection of basic demographic information, positive and possible improvement milestones, the impact of the technology, and additional information, including possible quotes, videos, and written and verbal information.
- Commitment to track where and how the PowerOn technology is being used.
- Participation in marketing efforts and the use of Bidder’s logo and name as a participant in the PowerOn Program.

- Submission of annual impact data as requested by PowerOn.
- Completion of impact survey each month for first six months of grant period. This is to inform PowerOn about the impact of COVID on the LBGTQ community and any change the grant has made possible.

PowerOn, the PowerOn partners and leadership reserve the right to review and ensure the Bidder is adhering to program guidelines and agreed-upon participation and representation at any time. Bidder will be notified in writing of any breach of the agreed-upon guidelines put in place by PowerOn and the Bidder. The Bidder will have fifteen (15) days to submit a correction plan and thirty (30) days following the submission of the correction plan to work with the JEC to correct the issue. If a resolution is not reached or the Bidder fails to submit or work with the JEC, PowerOn reserves the right to revoke the partnership agreement and discontinue working with the Bidder. The JEC will also retain the right to determine if or when the Bidder will be allowed to submit a second application.

H: BIDDER COSTS

PowerOn is not liable for any costs incurred by any Bidder prior to signing of the agreement by all parties. PowerOn is not liable for any costs or expenses incurred by Bidder even after signature of an agreement unless such costs or expenses have been explicitly pre-approved in writing by PowerOn.

I: CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Bidder must disclose, in an exhibit to the proposal, any possible conflicts of interest that may result from the award of the agreement or the services provided under the agreement.

J: BREACH OF CONTRACT

Except as otherwise disclosed in an exhibit to Bidder's proposal, Bidder acknowledges and agrees that it is not in material default or breach of any contract or agreement.

K: DISCLOSURE OF LITIGATION

Except as otherwise disclosed in an exhibit to Bidder's proposal, there is no criminal litigation, investigations or proceedings involving the Bidder (and each subcontractor, if subcontractors will be used to provide the goods/services requested under this AFMG) or any of the Bidder's officers or directors or any litigation or proceedings under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. In addition, Bidders must disclose any civil litigation, arbitration or proceeding to which the Bidder (or, to the extent

Bidder is aware, any subcontractor) is a party and which involves: (1) disputes that might reasonably be expected to adversely affect the viability or financial stability of the Bidder (or subcontractor); or (2) a claim or written allegation of fraud or breach of contract against Bidder (or, to the extent Bidder is aware, subcontractor), by a governmental or public entity arising out of their business dealings with governmental or public entities. Details of any settlements which Bidder is prevented from disclosing under the terms of the settlement may be annotated as such.

L: FALSE INFORMATION

If PowerOn determines that a Bidder purposefully or willfully submitted false information in response to this AFMG, the Bidder will not be considered for an award, and any resulting Contract that may have been executed may be terminated without notice by PowerOn in its sole discretion.

M: DISCLOSURE

All Bidders should be aware that proposals submitted to PowerOn in response to this AFMG may be subject to disclosure under the provisions of known as the “Freedom of Information Act” (FOIA). Accordingly, confidential information should be excluded from Bidders’ proposals. Bidders, however, are encouraged to provide sufficient information to enable PowerOn to determine the Bidder’s qualifications and to understand or identify areas where confidential information exists and could be provided.

N: CHANGES IN THE AFMG

Changes made to the AFMG by PowerOn as the result of responses made to qualifying questions or concerns will be put in writing to each Bidder. PowerOn will not respond to telephone inquiries or visitation by Bidders or their representatives.

O: RESERVATIONS

Notwithstanding any other statement in this AFMG, PowerOn reserves the right, at its sole discretion to:

1. reject any and all proposals for any and all reasons;
2. waive any errors or irregularities in the bidding process or in any proposal;
3. rebid the project;
4. reduce the scope of the project, and rebid or negotiate with any Bidder regarding the revised project; or
5. defer or abandon the project.

P: APPLICATION SUBMITTAL

Applications must be submitted via the link available at <https://www.poweronlgbt.org/2020-mini-grants>.

PowerOn has no obligation to consider any proposal that is not received by the deadline (11:59 PM EST on November 22, 2020). Proposals will not be accepted via U.S. mail or any other delivery method.