

SOAR Grant Factsheet



What is a SOAR Grant?

Dignity For All: LGBTQI+ Assistance Program provides security, opportunity, advocacy, rapid response (SOAR) grants to organizations for short-term initiatives to counteract urgent threats or respond to emerging opportunities such as proposed or recently passed legislation, sudden government crackdowns, increased levels of violence or other emergent dangers/trends, or to take advantage of time-bound advocacy opportunities.

Evaluation Criteria

1. **The activities are created as the result of a qualifying event.** A **qualifying event** is a recent change in the operating environment. This can include emerging or intensifying threats on the LGBTQI+ community, opportunities to expand LGBTQI+ rights, or recently discovered vulnerabilities. Urgency is defined by threatening conditions or a time-bound opportunity, not the financial need of the organization. Examples include:

- Legal persecution
- Change in legislation (positive or negative)
- Crackdown (by the state and/or local government)
- Active or imminent spike in community violence
- New or worsening institutional rhetoric (hate speech, slander, etc. by state actors, community, religious leaders)
- Elections or political referenda

2. **The activities are feasible, short-term (<6 months), and clearly address the conditions they seek to change.** Applications must present a clear, step-by-step plan to act on a time-bound opportunity to advocate for an enabling environment for LGBTQI+ movements. Examples include:

- Advocacy and awareness campaigns
- Provision of temporary shelter
- Capacity building
- Trainings
- Monitoring, observation, and documentation
- Legal resource provision and action

3. **The proposed initiative has at least one of the following goals: security, accountability, and/or change.**

- **Security:** Improving safety & security of LGBTQI+ movements & communities.
- **Accountability:** Holding duty bearers accountable to international human rights standards; fighting impunity.
- **Change:** Bringing about new, direction-changing movement, i.e. changes in legislation, shifting societal attitudes, bringing new information to light.

Application Process

1. Please reach out to info@dignitylgbti.org with your project idea, qualifying event, and a rough budget. After discussing your initial inquiry, if your project qualifies for SOAR Grant funding, we will provide you with a **Concept Note Template** and you may move on to step two.
2. Submit a completed **Concept Note** (1-3 pages) with a **Summary Budget** to info@dignitylgbti.org. We will review the concept, and if approved, will request a **Detailed Budget** to complete the application.
3. Complete application forms, which includes finalizing the **SOAR Concept Note** and the **Detailed Budget**. Dignity will review the application and respond with comments or questions to further define grant activities and objectives.
4. The application will be shared with the Consortium for approval. Once Dignity has consortium approval, we will begin the internal approval process, which may require the Applicant to submit documents relating to financial capacity.
5. The process is complete when the grantee has received a Grant Agreement detailing the terms of the grant, signed by an authorized Dignity representative.

Please note that funding is not guaranteed until an Agreement is signed.

Examples of Supported Initiatives:

- Security workshops and trainings to help LGBTQI+ organizations, communities, and activists develop security plans.
- Strategic engagement with media outlets to increase coverage of physical/legal attacks on LGBTQI+ community.
- Analysis of the implications of (draft) laws on LGBTQI+ individuals, activists and organizations, to generate amendment recommendations.
- Dialogue with local leaders responsible for ensuring the safety of LGBTQI+ individuals and organizations.

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