



NATIONAL PUBLIC PENSION COALITION

2019 GRANT PROGRAM DETAILS

Scope: Grants are offered to state or local pension coalitions on an annual basis. Grants will be offered to coalitions based upon the strength of state coalitions and the immediacy of legislative threats (or opportunities) to public employee pensions.

NPPC awards annual grants which are distributed regularly. After the initial check is sent to grant recipients, continuing disbursements are made as grantees demonstrate a good faith effort to implement their plan. Requirements for ongoing financial support include, but are not limited to:

- Willingness to provide regular and timely updates to NPPC regarding progress toward the goals laid out by the coalition in their application.
- Commitment of coalition partners to operate on consensus and a good faith effort to work in harmony with one another.
- Flexibility of the coalition to adjust the plan laid out in grant application as the legislative landscape changes throughout session.

ORGANIZATIONAL ELIGIBILITY

NPPC is a coalition of public employee unions, the National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems, and other entities with an interest in preserving the pensions of public employees. NPPC makes all major decisions with consensus from each core partner. In that spirit, NPPC provides grants to pension coalitions at the state-level who are able to operate on the basis of consensus at protecting and preserving public employee pensions.

PRE-APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Before applying for the grant, organizations should:

1. Convene a meeting of potential coalition partners to work through the grant application and legislative planning process. Where scheduling permits, an NPPC team member should be invited to participate in the planning meeting.
2. Secure commitments from core coalition partners to engage in raising matching funds to meet the goals of the coalition.
3. Obtain a letter of support for the grant from each participating core partner (attach as addendum to grant application)
4. Obtain agreement from coalition partners on frequency of meetings during session, expectations of internal coalition communication, and process for coalition to determine taking action or engaging in pension defense/offense work (include in project summary of grant)

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APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications for the 2019 legislative cycle will be due Friday, October 12.

- Applications will be accepted, denied, or returned to state coalitions for edits. Edited proposals will be reviewed and accepted or denied at the NPPC board meeting (November or December) immediately following the application deadline.

Applications should adequately answer each of the questions in the following section. Applications should be submitted to Bridget Early (bearly@protectpensions.org) and Tyler Bond (tbond@protectpensions.org). Please feel free to send any questions to Bridget and Tyler throughout the application process.

APPLICATION

In order to receive a grant from NPPC, state pension coalitions should submit an action plan for the 2019 legislative cycle. Action plans should include answers to the following questions:

Project Summary

- Who are the core (organizations willing to participate in match funding) table partners for the coalition?
- Who are potential non-core (non-funding) table partners for the coalition?
- Has the coalition done pension work in previous legislative cycles? **If yes, please provide a short, half-page summary.**
- What is the current status of public employee pensions in the state (DB v. DC, COLAs, funding ratios, etc.)?

Legislative Analysis

- What pension-related bills does the coalition expect to see in this legislative cycle?
- All other things being equal, what does the coalition believe is the likely generic vote on a piece of anti-pension legislation? Who are the swing legislative targets who the coalition intends to target with their work? Please describe individual legislators and the reason the coalition believes they are a potential ally or swing vote?
- What is the current relationship between coalition partners and key legislative leaders and/or swing votes? What lobbyist relationships do individual coalition partners bring to the table?

Project Workplan

- Legislative Strategy: How will the coalition go about identifying yea and nay votes on pension legislation? What actions will the coalition take to lobby individual legislators?

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- **Coordinated Messaging:** What is the core messaging of the coalition? How will the coalition go about developing and refining messaging? What resources in-state will the coalition rely on to inform messaging?
- **Outreach:** What is the plan to conduct outreach to other individuals and organizations? What potential non-labor partners exist in the state? Who are the key allies among elected officials and community organizations?
- **Media Strategy:** What media outlets and publications will be primary targets for the coalition, both statewide and within the districts of targeted legislators? What background indicates the leanings of editorial boards and other opinion makers? What press conferences, letters to the editor, and op-eds will be produced in order to drive earned media in the state?
- **Social Media:** Will the coalition maintain a social media presence? If so, what platforms do you plan to use (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.)? Please provide links to any existing social media pages.
- **Research Partners:** What in-state research has been done or can be done to further the goals of the coalition?
- **Pensioner Mobilization:** What will the coalition do to mobilize active and retired public employees to take actions, both in the capital and within target members' legislative districts?
- **Timeline:** What is the timeline of activity in which the coalition will engage? Please be specific. Please include a list of coalition partner's membership meetings. These are opportunities for NPPC staff or coordinators can present on pension issues.
- **Measures of Success:** What specific metrics will be attached to each of the preceding questions in order to regularly assess the success of your work? What is the plan for regularly examining these metrics and adjusting accordingly? How can this work potentially aid organizing for coalition partners?

Budget

- What is the operating budget of the coalition (please include staff costs, consultants, patch through calls, paid media, event costs, etc.)?
- In addition to the NPPC grant, what specific amounts of money will be contributed by core table partners?

