



OMICRON DELTA KAPPA
The National Leadership Honor Society

Maurice A. Clay Leadership Development Initiative Grants – Application Review

The OΔK National Awards Committee reviews applications for the Maurice A. Clay Leadership Development Initiative Grants each fall. This document includes the criteria by which the grants are judged and some tips to help circles submit competitive applications. Please use this document as a guide when preparing a Clay Grant application.

Circles may request between \$100 and \$1,000. Awards are generally around \$500. However, if a circle only needs \$250 and requests that, then that allows other circles to apply for more. The committee also reserves the right to award some, but not all, of an applicant's funding request. The National Awards Committee will make the best use of available funds to fund as many circles as possible. In applying for a Clay Grant, consider carefully the funds needed for your program. You may be more likely to receive \$250 to fund the cost of a leadership workshop than \$750 toward a \$10,000 University event of which the circle is only a small sponsor.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Two grants are dedicated to programs that support the leadership development of historically underrepresented and marginalized populations or seek to bring leaders together to address issues of racial and ethnic injustice in their campus community. **To be considered, applicants must select “yes” to this question in the application.**

The 2023 grants will support programs that will take place between January 1, 2024, and November 30, 2024.

The Clay Grant application will be open on Kaleidoscope from Sept. 15, 2023, to Oct. 30, 2023. The application can be accessed [online](#). Circles interested in applying for a Clay Grant should consider attending one of the two [Clay Grant Webinars](#):

- 12:30 p.m. EST Monday, Oct. 2
- 7 p.m. EST Monday, Oct. 2

For additional assistance, please email programs@odk.org or [schedule a time](#) to speak with Jamie Bouldin, Director for Membership Services.

Criteria for Award

Program Details

- Leadership development focus – The program must have leadership components such as instruction, personal growth, or leadership in action. Service projects are acceptable, but they should describe how the leadership development of attendees or the campus community will be one of the outcomes.
- Furtherers circle engagement with the campus community – The program must be designed to engage the circle with campus programs and community partners. The essential factor is that the circle engages in activities beyond its members. The program should enhance the circle's image, reputation, and exposure on the campus.
- Supports new programs or enhances existing programs – Clay Grants are intended to support either new programs or expand a current program to add a new component. Applications requesting funding for an existing program but not specifying how the funds will support a new addition to the program will not be considered. The application must specify how circle members will actively be engaged in the planning and execution of the event.
- Evidence of collaboration with leaders across campus and with the community – Collaboration is one of OΔK's five values. Clay Grants encourage circles to collaborate with other student organizations, university departments, and community groups. Collaborative events are more likely to help build the brand and reputation of the circle on campus.

Application Quality

- Quality of Program Brief – A concise explanation and outline of the project. This description should include an outline of the project's overall goals, the connection to specific curriculum standards, and how the project will be implemented.
- Detailed Plan – Detailed description including these elements: planned activities, presenters/planners, marketing, locations, and expected attendance.
- Description of Funding – Describe how the funds will be used, including the breakdown between the circle's contributions and those of other organizations partnering with OΔK.
- Description of Evaluation – Provide a clear explanation of the proposed evaluation with methodology, timeframe, and reporting.
- General Quality of Submission – Applications must be professional and should not have spelling or grammatical errors.

Bonus Points

- The circle has not been supported previously by Clay Grant
- The circle is new (two or fewer years old)