



OMICRON DELTA KAPPA
The National Leadership Honor Society

Maurice A. Clay Leadership Development Initiative Grants – Application Review

Maurice A. Clay Leadership Development Initiative Grants are awarded to circles that seek funding to provide leadership and personal development opportunities on their campuses through innovative, engaging, and collaborative programming. Every year, OΔK provides ten or more grants, averaging \$500, to develop leadership programs on these campuses.

Clay Grants are awarded in amounts up to \$1,000. The National Awards Committee will review applications and use available funds to provide grants to as many circles as possible. When applying for a Clay Grant, consider the actual funds needed for your program, as you will be asked to provide a budget.

In addition, two additional diversity, equity, and inclusion grants (up to \$750 each) 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 for this funding, applicants must select “yes” to the question “Does this program qualify for consideration for a DEI grant?” and provide additional details.

The 2025 grants are for programs that occur between January 1, 2026, and November 30, 2026.

The Clay Grant application will be open on Kaleidoscope from Sept. 16, 2025, to Oct. 10, 2025. The application can be accessed [here](#). Applicants will need to create a Kaleidoscope account or log into their existing one to apply.

Circles interested in applying for a Clay Grant should consider attending the Clay Grant Webinar:

- [September 23, 2025 | 1 p.m. Eastern](#)

For additional assistance, please email programs@odk.org.

Criteria for Award

Program Details

- Leadership development focus – The program should include structured activities or curricula focused on areas vital to leadership-related skills, such as communication, decision-making, ethical reasoning, goal setting, collaboration, or strategic thinking. The program must involve active engagement, such as workshops, mentorship, experiential learning, or project-based components. Experienced facilitators should lead the program. Events featuring speakers or panels should include opportunities for attendees to engage with the speakers or panelists. Programs that showcase the achievements of leaders in the campus community are also encouraged.
- Further circle engagement and collaboration 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. 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.
- 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.

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 – A detailed description including the following 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, including methodology, timeframe, and reporting.
- General Quality of Submission – Applications must be professional and should not have spelling or grammatical errors.