OVERVIEW OF SPARK LEADERSHIP FUND

When we started CAAL, we aimed to create a network organization. A network organization is one in which individual leaders can bring their full selves into every space in order to advance individual leadership and shared community goals. We are proud that our CAAL network is now filled with Asian Minnesotan leaders who play multiple roles in their communities, each bringing bountiful expertise and experiences, rich relationships within and across other communities, and are actively working on a number of issues that align with CAAL's mission of improving the lives of the community.

At this time when our communities are facing a pandemic that needs us to be working together to create safety, health, and solutions for everyone, we are pleased to open up this year’s Spark Leadership Funds to support the leadership of Asian, African, Black, Indigenous, and Latinx (often under the umbrella of BIPOC) leaders through the SPARK Leadership Fund. Individual leaders can apply for funds of $500, $750 or $1,000 to carry out a project that addresses an urgent community need.

Please note that we are seeking to support all kinds of projects, but if your project is health related, please indicate so.

REQUIREMENTS:
All recipients of the SPARK Fund must:

- Complete the proposed project within a 9-month timeframe.
- Participate in check-ins with us to share the progress and outcome of your project.
- Complete a final report (either written or via an interview with CAAL’s staff).
- Update us if your project cannot be completed or if it needs to be changed.
- All funded projects will be featured on CAAL’s website and shared on social media

DEADLINE:
There is no deadline for the Spark Leadership Fund. We will review applications on a weekly basis and we will make awards to successful applications until we run out of funds.
FOR QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS:
If you have questions or need any additional support, please contact Kay Moua at kay@caalmn.org or (651) 756-7210.

NOTE: If you have a disability or another barrier that prevents you from completing this application and you would like us to work with you to submit the application another way, please contact Kay Moua.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHO SHOULD APPLY:
Leaders who apply should be ready to begin their project this year and have capacity to complete the project within a 9 month timeline.

Any leader or community member who has been a part of the networks of the organizations that make up the LinkingLeaders Partnership may apply. This includes African American Leadership Forum (AALF), Coalition of Asian American Leaders (CAAL), LatinoLEAD, and Tiwahe Foundation.

**Spark applicants from AALF-TC, LatinoLEAD, or the Tiwahe Foundation will be verified with our partners.**

Any leader who is not affiliated with the organizations that make up the LinkingLeaders Partnership may still apply, however please note that your affiliation will be taken into consideration. We highly encourage you to get to know the organizations and get involved in their networks.

WHAT CAN THE FUNDS BE USED FOR?
The Leadership Spark Fund can be used flexibly, but it is limited to be used to:

1) Pay for project related expenses and/or
2) Activities that strengthen and grow an individual's skills/experiences to achieve a leadership goal

Use of funds must demonstrate an alignment to the mission of benefitting and improving the lives of the community.

HOW DO I SUBMIT AN APPLICATION?
Complete the application form by submitting the link. We have provided two different methods for answering the short answers as we understand everyone has different
communication styles. Everyone must complete the first section of the online application to collect contact information, however there are two options to complete the short answer questions.

1) Written - Continue the application as is through the online form
2) Oral, through Video -
   a) Record a video (limited to 15 minutes) to share your answers for the questions listed on the Short Answer section
   b) Upload your video onto Google Drive, YouTube, or Vimeo
   c) Submit the video by emailing the link to kay@caalmn.org with subject “SPARK Leadership Fund Video Submission - Full Name”
   d) For the remainder of the application, please complete by typing, “Please refer to video submission”

**NOTE:** If you choose to submit a video, your application is only complete if you submit your video link by the deadline. Any videos that are not submitted by the deadline will be marked as an incomplete application and therefore cannot be reviewed.