



## **Red Umbrella Fund first Call for Proposals** **GUIDELINES for the Application Process**

**Deadline: 15 September 2012**

### **What is the Red Umbrella Fund?**

The Red Umbrella Fund is the first-ever global grantmaking collaborative guided by and for sex workers. The fund was launched in 2012. We exist to support movements and organisations fighting for sex workers' health, human and labour rights and self-determination. The Red Umbrella Fund strengthens and sustains sex worker rights movements by funding sex worker-led organisations and their national, regional and global networks.

### **Who are we?**

An International Steering Committee comprised of sex workers and donors oversees the strategic vision of the fund. Sex workers hold the majority of seats on the Programme Advisory Committee of the Red Umbrella Fund where the decisions on grants are made. The Red Umbrella Fund is hosted by Mama Cash, an international women's fund.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Call for Proposals**

The call for proposals of the Red Umbrella Fund is launched on 15 August 2012 and closes on 15 September 2012. It will serve as a pilot for the Red Umbrella Fund grantmaking procedures. In 2013, there will be an evaluation of the process in order to make necessary amendments and improvements based on our experiences.

### **Who can apply?**

The Red Umbrella Fund provides funding to groups and networks that are:

- based in any country in the world;
- registered or unregistered;
- women-led, male-led and trans-led.

If you want to apply, your group or network must:

- be led by sex workers for the benefit of sex workers;
- have an inclusive understanding of gender diversity;
- have a democratic leadership;
- have a rights-based approach;
- engage in empowerment of sex workers and in strengthening the sex worker movement;

- operate on the principle that sex work is legitimate work; and
- embrace what the Red Umbrella Fund stands for (see below).

### **What we fund:**

The Red Umbrella Fund provides funding for groups and networks of sex workers operating in the following thematic issues (but not limited to these points only):

- promoting universal human rights;
- right to and access to quality health care;
- ensuring sexual and reproductive health and rights;
- combating violence against sex workers;
- labour rights for sex workers;
- decriminalisation and depenalisation of sex work;
- social justice: lifting stigma and discrimination and promote social inclusion;
- organisational development issues and movement building.

### **What do we stand for?**

The Red Umbrella Fund:

- recognises the self-determination of sex workers;
- believes that sex workers must be at the heart of the design, implementation and evaluation of programs;
- opposes the criminalisation of sex work and recognises that sex work is work;
- embraces the gender, sexuality, and all other types of diversity of sex workers;
- commits to learning and using what we learn to inform our interventions and demonstrate the value of working collaboratively;
- commits to support actions that catalyse advocacy for policies, laws, and practices that are based on evidence of what works;
- commits to advocacy and funding processes that are transparent and accountable to and among all of our partners and their constituencies.

### **Types of funding:**

- 1. start up costs** for informal groups to become legal entities;
- 2. core funding** to sustain the organisation itself (not meant for projects);
- 3. peer capacity building, exchanges and/or technical assistance** to strengthen the capacity of sex worker groups and networks in areas such as (but not limited to):

- organisational development and management;
- peer-to-peer exchanges;
- program development and implementation;
- resource mobilisation;
- registration assistance;
- advocacy and communication skills;
- information dissemination;
- monitoring and evaluation skills.

## Our priorities:

For this first Call for Proposals, the Red Umbrella Fund prioritises:

- groups and networks with annual budgets below 200,000 Euros;
- formal or informal groups that operate on a local or national level;
- groups operating at the margins of the sex worker movement (including but not limited to sex workers who are illiterate, of older age, indigenous, HIV positive, transgender, migrants, drug/alcohol addicted, etc.);
- groups that have little experience with managing international donor funds.

## What we do NOT fund:

- organisations with sex worker rights as one of their programmes or projects, while the organisation as a whole has a broader focus.
- organisations that are not led by sex workers.
- organisations that seek to abolish and/or criminalise sex work;
- organisations exclusively providing charity, social services or regular medical care to a limited group of beneficiaries;
- organisations founded by, or structurally or economically dependent on, political parties, government agencies, or religious institutions;
- businesses, credit programmes or income-generating activities;
- individuals;
- academic research.

## How much funding can be requested?

Grant requests can range from 4.000 EURO to 40.000 EURO

## How to apply?

1. Fill out **the Application Form** which can be downloaded from [www.redumbrellafund.org](http://www.redumbrellafund.org).
2. Send in the completed application form **no later than 15 September 2012** to:

By e-mail: info@redumbrellafund.org  
By post: The Red Umbrella Fund  
c/o Mama Cash  
P.O. Box 15686  
1001 ND Amsterdam  
The Netherlands

*Please note that incomplete applications will not be considered for funding!*

## Next steps after applying:

After sending in the application form you will receive a confirmation of receipt by email or, if no email address is provided, by post. The Red Umbrella Fund staff will make a selection of eligible applications and present these to the Programme Advisory Committee which will make the final decision on the grants to award. It is possible that we contact applicants in case we need more information on their application. Therefore it is important to provide us with full and accurate contact details. We strive to inform all applicants of the final decision before December 15 2012. The

successful applicants will be contacted and receive information on the next steps for finalizing the grants before 31 December 2012.

**More information?**

For more information, please also go to our website [www.redumbrellafund.org](http://www.redumbrellafund.org). If you have further questions about the application process, please contact us by e-mail at [info@redumbrellafund.org](mailto:info@redumbrellafund.org) or by phone at +31 20 5158 700 (general Mama Cash phone number).

**Other languages:**

This guideline and the application form are also available in French, Russian, and Spanish from [www.redumbrellafund.org](http://www.redumbrellafund.org).