

Northeastern Students4Giving

Northeastern Students4Giving (NS4G) began in 2008 with a simple question:

"Can we integrate authentic grant making into a course so students can experience the practical and ethical challenges of investing in social change?"

Since then, hundreds of students have experienced "learning to give, giving to learn" by awarding \$150,000 to Boston-area nonprofit organizations. Thanks to their hard work, our longstanding collaboration with Doris Buffett's Learning by Giving Foundation, and other donor support, NS4G is now emulated at colleges and universities across the U.S. and around the world.



What is NS4G?

NS4G provides a platform for students to examine the critical social and economic role the nonprofit sector plays in the U.S., not only as a safety net for people in need, but also as a defining element of our day-to-day lives. While students learn to identify the characteristics of high-performing nonprofit organizations, they also value how much they learn from the organizations that compete for NS4G grants and host site visits. The often-painful need to say "no" to many of those organizations and "yes" to only a few enables them to reflect deeply on the power and privilege associated with stewarding scarce resources in the face of abundant need.

The aim is to do the following:

- Teach students about the socioeconomic role of the nonprofit sector and philanthropy in the U.S.
- Foster leadership, strategic-systems thinking, and innovation in the social impact arena.
- Prepare students to think, work, and collaborate across sectors.
- Promote a campus-wide culture of giving and civic engagement.
- Strengthen the relationship between students and the communities in which they live.



Strategic Philanthropy course students at NS4G awards ceremony, 2016

How does it work?

Since 2008 students have used a consensus-based approach to manage all stages of the NS4G funding cycle from conducting needs assessments through making grant determinations. Their philanthropy is informed by coursework in human services and nonprofit management as well as many experiences working and volunteering in the nonprofit sector. The following grantmaking cycle outlines the process of determining what the annual grants will be:



Past Funding Priorities and Grantees:

Every year NS4G makes grants to community-based nonprofit organizations using a rigorous process to choose outstanding organizations that address critical economic and social challenges facing the Boston neighborhoods of Mission Hill, Fenway, Roxbury, and the South End. Feel free to browse the list of grantees and click on any image to be directed to their website and learn more.

2009 Grantees

Youth Violence



2010 Grantees

Families at Risk Due to Financial Insecurity



2011 Grantees

Positive Youth Development



2012 Grantees

Intimate Partner Violence



Thriving Families



2013 Grantees

Community Mental Health



2014 Grantees

Diversity & Inclusion



Trauma Treatment



2015 Grantees

Policy & Advocacy to Support Vulnerable & Under-Represented Populations



2016 Grantees

Empowering Families to Help Children Thrive



2017 Grantee

Social & Economic Justice Through Economic Empowerment & Engagement



2018 Grantee

Engaging Community to Combat Chemical Dependency



2019 Grantee

Uplifting Community Voice & Public Participation in Civic Decision Making



2020 Grantees

Supporting Racial Justice & Community Needs Throughout the Pandemic



2021 Grantees

Supporting Racial Justice & Community Needs Throughout the Pandemic



2022 Grantees

Supporting Racial Justice & Community Needs Throughout the Pandemic

