



## Micro-Community Scholarship Program at Pres House Apartments



We're so glad you're interested in being a Micro-Community at Pres House Apartments. The Micro-Community program is our signature program for **groups of residents** applying to do a scholarship together.

### **Purpose:**

Being a Micro-Community is a way to make your experience living at Pres House more meaningful. Members grow closer with each other and with the community, developing leadership and organizational skills while exploring a meaningful topic of interest. Each group chooses a theme or topic of focus for the year. The group members then share responsibility for planning and executing activities at least once a month around their topic. At least one to two of these activities must be open to the broader PH Apartments community; the rest are usually internal to the group.

### **Micro-Community Topic Ideas:**

The following list summarizes types of projects residents have undertaken; this list is not exhaustive and your own ideas are encouraged.

- A group focused on promoting global citizenship through appreciation of cultures, global economic and environmental realities, and cross-cultural communication.
- A group focused on developing a particular set of skills, habits, or appreciation for arts
- A group focused on learning and doing something about a pressing issue such as human trafficking, the incarceration industry, climate change, or homelessness.
- A group committed to encouraging healthy habits that promote wellness for themselves and among Pres House residents.
- Your own idea of a living/learning/service community that develops deep and meaningful relationships within the group and meets a need on campus, in the wider community, or in the world.

### **Support from Pres House:**

Participants in the Micro-Community will receive a rent credit scholarship (up to \$75/participant per month). Groups report regularly to, and receive support from, the Coordinator of Residential Programs (CRP), but the responsibility for the community and its programs will be primarily in the hands of the group itself. As part of its proposal a group may request up to an additional \$300-500 of program support funds for event supplies, special meals, travel, speaker fees, or other program expenses. Each group member must participate in all aspects of the proposed program in order to receive the rent credit scholarship throughout the year.

**How to Apply:**

Applications are available with the beginning of leasing season, typically in October. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, with 4-5 projects being funded in a typical year. Interviews will be conducted as applications are received. Those who are interested in another scholarship program may apply for both programs and places will be held until a decision is made about the Micro-Community application. Residents cannot be a part of two scholarship programs at the same time, except in special circumstances. Every group member must sign a lease in Pres House Apartments. Lease application must be done separately from applying to be a Micro-Community.

**Group Make-Up:**

Groups may be from 4 to 8 people in size. Members typically live in a shared apartment, although they can include 1-2 members living in another Pres House Apartments unit. **You may sign a group lease or individual leases in advance of being accepted as a Micro-Community as long as you understand that there is no guarantee your Micro-Community application will be approved.**

**The ideal Micro-Community proposal will:**

- State a clear and meaningful topic of focus for the Micro-Community being proposed.
- Propose activities and initiatives that will:
  1. facilitate connection and personal growth among members;
  2. provide opportunities for others living at Pres House to engage in your project;
  3. educate, engage, or meet some need of the campus and/or surrounding community.
- Be clearly thought out and well-articulated.
- Include a prospective budget for activity supplies & other expenses.
- Include a plan to self-evaluate the Micro-Community and address issues as they arise
- Identify how Micro-Community will share and delegate leadership / accountability.

## Micro-Community Scholarship Program Grant Application

Submit to: Rebecca Bedell, Coordinator of Residential Programs  
2<sup>nd</sup> floor office, Pres House Apartments  
[rebecca@preshouse.org](mailto:rebecca@preshouse.org)

Submit this page and the following pages together as a Word, PDF, or printed copy, using extra space if needed for the questions.

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### TITLE OF MICRO-COMMUNITY:

#### I. PARTICIPANTS

Name	Phone	Email

#### II. PURPOSE

1. What is your group's theme or topic of focus? Why do you think this focus is important or will make a difference to you or others?

- a. How will this project facilitate community and growth among your members?
  - b. How will this project engage with, or include, the broader PH Apartments community?
  - c. How will this project educate / inspire / address some need in the UW, Madison, national or global community?
2. What do you hope to learn by doing this Micro-Community project as a group?
  3. How will you organize your project and work together to get things done? What process has the group identified to distribute leadership and planning for program activities?
  4. What mechanisms do you envision for holding individuals accountable to their commitments?
  5. Are there any local, UW-Madison, or student organizations you anticipate working with to implement your project? (This is not required).

### III. PLANNING

Below, write a draft of what specific activities you hope to do throughout the year. Include all internal group activities, plus at least one to two initiatives your group will plan and host for the broader Pres House Apartments community. Groups may plan activities together that include meals, conversations, hosting guest speakers, attending forums/lectures/films, field trips, etc.

You have the ability to adjust your planned activities later as new opportunities or ideas for events arise, but use this chance to write up a plan to make sure you are prepared. Use additional pages if necessary.

**Fall (September - December):**

**Spring (January - May):**

***Summer (June - July, optional):***

## IV. STAFF RESOURCES

What support do you anticipate wanting/needing from Pres House? (I.e. room reservations, supplies and setup support, extra expense funding, guidance and planning support).

## V. BUDGET

- Rent reduction.** All Micro-Community members receive a rent scholarship applied to their lease. This scholarship is typically \$55-\$75 per month per participant, contingent upon Pres House Apartments funding and the number of micro-communities being funded. Based on the number of people in your group, calculate the high and low ends for your group's total rent credit funding.

$$\$75 \text{ per month} * \frac{\quad}{(\# \text{ of members})} = \$ \frac{\quad}{(\text{group monthly})} \text{ per month} * 12 \text{ months} = \$ \frac{\quad}{(\text{group year total})} \text{ total}$$

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- Activity Expenses.** Identify anticipated expenses for the activities outlined in **III** for which you are requesting coverage, including the estimated amount.

Expense/Program/Activity/Etc.	Estimated Cost
<b>TOTAL</b>	