

## About The Abe and Lilyan Spero Memorial Fund

The Abe and Lilyan Spero Memorial Fund awards grants to individuals and organizations for projects that aim to encourage Fairfax youth to engage with the Democratic Party and support Democratic candidates running for office to represent Fairfax County voters. The program operates under the aegis of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee (FCDC). Established in 2011 in memory of Lilyan and Abe Spero -- a lifelong and devoted Democratic Fairfax couple -- the Fund has been further supported by contributions from other loyal Democrats.

### Who May Apply?

Individuals and organizations that have projects intended to promote voter registration and support for Democratic candidates among Fairfax County youth may apply.

*Organizations* applying for a grant must have a presence in Fairfax County, which includes the Fairfax campus of George Mason University. *Individual applicants* must live, work, or study in Fairfax County (paid or unpaid employment).

*FCDC, its constituent committees, and other subordinate FCDC bodies are not eligible for Spero grants.* However, FCDC members may apply for grants in their personal capacity, either individually or in collaboration with outside parties or entities. Two or more organizations or individuals may submit a collaborative proposal.

### Award Amounts

Grants may be awarded to defray all or a portion of the costs of the approved projects. There is no minimum grant amount, but individual awards may not exceed \$2,000 (two thousand dollars) per project. Total grants issued to all awardees, combined, may not exceed \$5,000 in any fiscal year. (The FCDC fiscal year runs from April 1 through March 31.)

### How to Apply

You can download a [printable](#) version of the application form [here](#). Or you can access the [online](#) version here.

Applications may be submitted at any time; there is no deadline. However, applicants are encouraged to apply at least three weeks before they would need the funds so that the Spero Committee may have enough time to evaluate the application. (In exceptional cases the Spero Committee may be able to accord expedited processing. Prospective applicants who cannot submit their proposals at least three weeks before they need the funds are urged to contact the Spero Committee without delay by email to ([spero@fairfaxdemocrats.org](mailto:spero@fairfaxdemocrats.org)) to determine whether expedited handling is feasible in their case.)

Applicants must provide a contact phone number where Spero Fund managers can, if necessary, reach them for additional information.

## **Submitting Your Application**

You may submit your application in any of three ways:

- On line (click [here](#) for the online executable form).
- By email to [spero@fairfaxdemocrats.org](mailto:spero@fairfaxdemocrats.org). (Click [here](#) for the printable PDF version.)
- Via the US Postal Service or courier (or drop it off yourself) to the following address:

Fairfax County Democratic Committee (FCDC)  
The SPERO Fund  
8500 Executive Park Ave  
Suite 402  
Fairfax, VA 22031

Remember to include all attachments, either with your application form or as separate documents.

## **The Approval Process**

The Spero Fund Committee will review applications expeditiously, typically within 10 business days of receipt. The Committee may contact applicants for additional information as necessary.

## **Grantees' Responsibilities**

Grantees agree to:

- Use the grant funds strictly for the purposes authorized.
- Remit to the Spero Fund any unexpended grant amounts. (Email the Spero Committee at [spero@fairfaxdemocrats.org](mailto:spero@fairfaxdemocrats.org) for instructions on how to remit unexpended funds.)
- Submit a project completion report within 30 days of the project's completion (or a progress report not later than 90 days after grant approval, if the project is still in progress).

**Questions?** Contact the Spero Fund Committee at [spero@fairfaxdemocrats.org](mailto:spero@fairfaxdemocrats.org) .