#45-2684239 seeks support to launch a new Affiliate Program Initiative that will result in the founding of inclusive orchestras and ensembles in 10 cities over the next two years. These groups of classical musicians will reflect this organization’s commitment to serving musicians living with mental illnesses and the people who support them. They will spread our mission of erasing the stigma surrounding mental illness through supportive rehearsals and inspiring performances.

To date, we have experienced limited success with the launch of two small affiliate programs: a chamber music ensemble in Portland, OR and a small orchestra in Portland, ME. Although our model is definitely replicable, we do not currently have the funding necessary to introduce a large number of potential founders to the idea, assemble the required legal and organizational information, orient new founders to our mission, oversee a successful launch, and provide ongoing support. Thanks to recent national media exposure, people in several cities have expressed an interest in creating new affiliate programs. Those cities are Philadelphia, Seattle, Columbus (GA), Pittsburgh and New York City.

A grant of $50,000 will allow us to launch an Affiliate Program Initiative that includes recruitment resources, a dynamic toolkit, and staff support to ensure successful implementation of the programs and adherence to our mission and goals. With this grant we will add Affiliate Programs in the five cities mentioned in 2021, as well as at least five additional cities in 2022.

We have seen the power of “classical music for mental health” in terms of creating an inclusive community, making great music, sharing our stories, and educating audience members about the realities of living with mental illness. Your support will make it possible for #45-2684239 to scale up and increase our societal impact by replicating our model in cities across the nation.

We assert that #45-2684239 (the applicant) meets GKV Foundation’s Minimum Requirements as stated in the GKV website.