General Fund Grant Opportunity | Fall 2021

Seeding Justice funds primarily grassroots, Oregon-based organizations that believe, like we do, that those most impacted by the pain of injustice are the ones best equipped to come up with solutions to the problems that affect them.

We prioritize funding small, emerging, and grassroots organizations that:

* build collective power by using community organizing, leadership development, base building, policy advocacy, and/or other strategies;
* address the root causes of injustice and focus on changing systems, not just addressing symptoms;
* have an intentional practice against racism, white supremacy, and all other forms of oppression;
* are intersectional in their thinking, approaches and solutions; and
* are led by the people most impacted.

([You can read more about our priorities on our website.](https://www.seedingjustice.org/general-fund-grants/))

The majority of the groups we fund may have small budgets, but they are strategic, well organized, and passionate about the work; they partner well with others in the movement; and their work is informed by, and accountable to, the communities they serve.

# Eligibility

In order to be eligible for funding, organizations must:

* Be based in Oregon and/or their work must benefit those who call Oregon home; and
* Have 501(c)(3) tax exemption or have a 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor. If a group has neither federal tax exemption nor a fiscal sponsor, please contact us before applying.
* Not have received a grant in the Spring of 2021.

For the full list of eligibility requirements, [please visit our website](http://seedingjustice.org/general-fund-grants).

# Grant Types + Amounts

Our General Fund grants can be used for general operating support or for special projects, depending on a few criteria. All of our grants are for one year, unless otherwise stated (our grantmakers do occasionally make multi-year commitments for exceptional projects).

Seeding Justice strives to fund grants as requested; however, our limited budget and the high number of applications sometimes mean we must fund at lower amounts.

### Operating Support:

Operating support grants are unrestricted and are awarded to a group for their general, every-day work, not a specific project.

* Eligible groups: Only 501(c)(3) tax-exempt groups whose budgets are up to $500,000 a year can apply for operating support.
* Max Amount: $15,000.

Please note that we are unable to make operating support grants that exceed 30% of an organization’s annual budget.

### Project Support:

Project support grants are restricted to a specific project or fiscally sponsored group.

* Eligible groups: All groups regardless of tax-exemption or budget size can apply for project support.
* Max Amounts:
	+ $15,000 for fiscally sponsored and 501(c)(3) groups
	+ $7,000 for groups that have neither federal tax-exempt status nor a fiscal sponsor.

Note that we are unlikely to fund a project for which we are the only funder.

# Process + Timeline

After groups submit their applications, our Grantmaking Committee will review applications and select up to 20 groups that will receive funding. In some cases, the Grantmaking Committee may visit groups or ask for additional information before making a decision. The timeline for the upcoming cycle is as follows:

* **Monday, August 30** – Applications open.
* **Friday, October 1** – Deadline to apply. Applications must be
 submitted **by 5 p.m. PST.**
* **By early November** –Grantmakers meet to make decisions.
* **By end of November** – Final notifications sent.
* **By end of December** – Those receiving grants will get their grant
 agreements and checks.

Once groups receive an award, they’ll have one year to spend the funds. At the end of that year, they will meet with our Director of Programs to present their final report.

# Working On Your Application

Before you start, [**please read our General Fund Grants page**](https://www.seedingjustice.org/general-fund-grants/)**, including the Frequently Asked Questions, carefully**.

As you are working on your application, Submittable will autosave your answers, but if you'd like to work on a draft outside of the platform, [you can download the application questions and the scoring rubric from our website](https://www.seedingjustice.org/general-fund-grants/).

Please note that we are no longer accepting paper applications. If applying online presents a significant barrier, however, please let us know and we can work with you on finding a solution.

# Questions?

Due to the high volume of inquiries and our limited staff capacity, we ask that you read all available materials and information; if you still have questions, please send us an email and we’ll get back to you within 48 hours.

If you experience technical difficulties with the online platform, please contact support@submittable.com.

Grant Application

Use this application only as a reference or to work out your answers before submitting it online. The \* denotes the question requires an answer.

## Name of Organization or Group \* If your legal name and DBA are different, please enter both. For example: McKenzie River Gathering Foundation, DBA MRG Foundation.

## Website \* If you don't have a website, enter the URL of your social media platform(s).

1. *Mailing Address* \* *Please make sure you include your city, state and ZIP.*
2. *What is your service area?* \* *This is the geographic area you operate or provide services in.*
* Central Oregon
* Columbia River Gorge
* Eastern Oregon
* Oregon Coast
* Portland Metro
* Southern Oregon
* Statewide
* Willamette Valley

*5.* o *Check here if this is your first Seeding Justice request*

1. *What's your group's tax-exemption status? \**
* 501(c)(3) exempt

*What’s your Employer Identification Number? If you need to find your EIN, you can check here:* [*https://justice.oregon.gov/charities*](https://justice.oregon.gov/charities)

* Fiscally sponsored

*What's the name of your fiscal sponsor? \* Please enter the legal name of your fiscal sponsor. If your application moves to the next stage, we will ask you to submit a fiscal sponsorship agreement.*

*What's your fiscal sponsor's Employer Identification Number?* \* *If you need to find their EIN, you can check here:* [*https://justice.oregon.gov/charities*](https://justice.oregon.gov/charities)

*What's your fiscal sponsor's mailing address? \**

* No 501(c)(3) or fiscal sponsor
1. *Briefly tell us about your group. Include your group's vision, mission and programs/activities.\* You will expand on your work below so please keep it fairly short here. Limit: 200 words*
2. *What is your group's annual operating budget? \**
* Under $100,000
* $100,000 to $300,000
* $300,000 to $500,000
* $500,000 to $700,000
* Above $700,000
1. *What is your group's primary focus? \* Please select no more than three.*
* Arts & Media
* Civic Engagement
* Criminal Justice Reform
* Cultural Preservation
* Disability Justice
* Economic Justice
* Environmental Justice
* Food Justice
* Gender Equity
* Health/Healthcare Equity
* Housing Justice/Houselessness Issues
* Immigrant/Refugee Rights
* LGBTQ2SIA+ Rights
* Racial Justice
* Workers' Rights/Labor Justice
* Youth & Education
* Other focus (please specify):
1. *Which type of grant are you applying for? \* Operating Support is reserved for organizations that have 501(c)(3) exempt status and whose annual budgets are less than $500,000. Everyone else must apply for project support.*
* Operating Support
* Project Support
1. *How much would you like to apply for? \* Max amounts: $15,000 for 501(c)(3) and fiscally sponsored groups; $7,000 for groups that have neither 501(c)(3) status nor a fiscal sponsor.*
2. *Tell us about the problems or issues you are addressing or trying to solve. \* Limit: 300 words*
3. *Tell us about the approaches you are using to solve the issues or problems you mentioned above, and why you chose those approaches. \* Limit: 300 words*
4. *If you are requesting project support. Tell us about your specific project: your project goal(s), the activities you plan to carry out, and what success will look like. If you're a fiscally sponsored group and the request is for general operations (not a special project), just enter N/A. \* Limit: 500 words*
5. *Tell us about how your group is building or shifting power in your community and working to change oppressive systems?* \* *Limit: 300 words*
6. *Tell us about your organizational partners. Who are they and what kinds of partnerships do you have with them? \* For example, do you share space, clients, or programming? Do you fundraise or hold events together? Limit: 300 words*
7. *Anything else you'd like to tell us that would let us know that Seeding Justice should prioritize your request? Limit: 350 words*

## Please upload your group's current operating budget, and if you have it, next year's budget as well. \* If you need a template, you may download budget templates here: <https://seedingjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Budget-Templates.xlsx>.

## If you are requesting project support. Please upload your project budget. If you're a fiscally sponsored group and the request is for general operations (not a specific project) you can skip this question. If you need a template, you may download budget templates here: <https://seedingjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Budget-Templates.xlsx>.

## **DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SECTION**

## We collect demographic information from groups for a few reasons: The data helps us ensure we are meeting our goal of supporting the leadership of those who are most impacted by injustice. It also helps us assess if a group's leadership is representative of the people being served, and to learn what steps they're taking toward achieving that representation. Information you provide in this section will only be shared with the public in the aggregate.

##  How does the majority of your leadership identify? \* This question refers to the decision makers in your organization—the board of directors and/or the executive or key staff. By majority we mean 51% or more.

* As White/European American

*What percentage, if any, of your leadership identifies as Black, Indigenous and/or People of Color? \* Please use percentages, not number of people.*

*Please provide the steps you're taking to increase and/or strengthen the leadership of Black, Indigenous or People of Color in your organization. \* Limit: 300 words*

* As both BIPOC and White (50/50)

*Leaders of color identify as: (Check all that apply)*

* African/African American/Black
* American Indian/Native Alaskan
* Asian/Asian American
* Hispanic/Latine
* Muslim/Arab/South Asian (MASA)
* Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
* Prefer to self-describe:
* As Black, Indigenous, and/or people of color (BIPOC)

*Leaders of color identify as: (Check all that apply)*

* African/African American/Black
* American Indian/Native Alaskan
* Asian/Asian American
* Hispanic/Latine
* Muslim/Arab/South Asian (MASA)
* Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
* Prefer to self-describe:

## Any other identities that are represented in at least 51% of your leadership?

* Currently or formerly incarcerated
* Immigrants/Refugees
* Living with a disability
* Living with low income
* LGBTQ2SIA+
* Women/Gender non-conforming/Nonbinary
* Youth under 24
* Prefer to self-describe:

## What are you doing to increase/strengthen the leadership of the folks you didn't select above? \* Limit: 300 words

##