



## General Fund Grant Opportunity Fall 2023

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:

- address the root causes of injustice and focus on changing systems, not just addressing symptoms of problems;
- build collective power by using community organizing, leadership development, base building, policy advocacy, and/or other strategies;
- are intentionally anti-racist, anti-oppression, and intersectional in their thinking, approaches and solutions; and
- are led by the people most impacted.

(You can read about our priorities on our website.)

The majority of the groups we fund have smaller budgets, but they are 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 a federal tax exemption nor a fiscal sponsor, please contact us before applying.**
- Organizations that received a General Fund grant in the Fall of 2022 are eligible to apply. If you're unsure if that's you, please [contact us](#).

For the full list of eligibility requirements, [please visit our website](#).

### GRANT TYPES + AMOUNTS

Our General Fund grants can be used for general operating support or for special projects. They are all for one year, unless otherwise stated in the grant agreement. (Our grantmakers occasionally make multi-year commitments for exceptional projects.)

Seeding Justice strives to fund groups at the full amount requested. However, our limited budget and the high number of applications we receive sometimes force us to make slightly smaller awards.

We have two types of grants:

### **Operating Support Grants**

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 \$700,000 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 Grants**

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**

Applications must be submitted via our online platform, [Submittable](#).

After groups submit their applications, our [Grantmaking Committee](#) will review applications and select 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 fall cycle is as follows:

**Tuesday, September 19th** – Applications open.

**Monday, October 16th** – Applications Due and must be submitted **by 5 p.m. PST**.

**By end of November** – Grantmakers make decisions.

**By early December** – Notifications to groups go out.

**By end of December** – Grantees receive their grant agreements and funds.

Once groups receive their awards, they'll have one year to spend the funds (unless otherwise noted in their grant agreements). Seeding Justice does not

require written reports; instead we'll ask grantees how to connect with Seeding Justice at the end of the grant period. This could be through a conversation, a written summary, end of year report, etc.

## **WORKING ON YOUR APPLICATION**

Before you start, **please read through our General Fund grants page—including the scoring rubric and Frequently Asked Questions—carefully.**

If you are working on your application directly in Submittable, your answers will autosave. If you'd like to work on a draft outside of the platform, you can use the application questions below. You may also download the scoring rubric [from our website](#).

*Please note that we are no longer accepting paper applications. If applying online presents a barrier, however, [please let us know](#) and we can work together on finding a solution.*

## **QUESTIONS?**

Due to the high volume of inquiries and our limited staff capacity, we ask that you read all materials and information available on our website before contacting us; if you still have questions, [please send us an email](#) with your questions and we'll get back to you as quickly as possible.

If you experience technical difficulties with Submittable, please contact them directly at [support@submittable.com](mailto:support@submittable.com).

**THIS FORM IS FOR REFERENCE ONLY - [PLEASE APPLY VIA SUBMITTABLE](#)**

## General Fund 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: MRG Foundation, DBA Seeding Justice*

**Website\*** *If you don't have a website, you may enter the URL of one of your social media platforms, e.g. [instagram.com/seedingjustice](#) or [facebook.com/seedingjustice](#).*

**Mailing Address\***

**What is your service area?\*** *This is the geographic area you operate or provide services in. You can only choose one.*

- Central Oregon
- Columbia River Gorge
- Eastern Oregon
- Oregon Coast
- Portland Metro
- Southern Oregon
- Statewide
- Willamette Valley

**Check here if this is your first Seeding Justice request**

**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>*

- Fiscally sponsored

**What's your fiscal sponsor's name?\*** *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 your fiscal sponsor's EIN, you can check here: <https://justice.oregon.gov/charities>*

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

- No 501(c)(3) or fiscal sponsor - **STOP [please reach out](#)**

**What is your group's annual operating budget?** *Funding priority will be given to smaller organizations with a budget of \$700,000 or less..\**

- Under \$100,000  
 \$100,000 to \$300,000  
 \$300,000 to \$500,000  
 \$500,000 to \$700,000  
 Above \$700,000

**What is your group's primary focus?** *Please select no more than three.\**

- Arts & Media  
 Civic Engagement  
 Criminal Justice Reform/Abolition  
 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)

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**REPRESENTATIVE LEADERSHIP**

*The following section asks for demographic information of your organization's leadership to help us ensure we are meeting our goal of funding groups whose leadership is reflective of those most impacted by injustice.*

*It is also intended to encourage reflection on how your organization continues to or is working toward centering leadership that is representative of the people*

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*being served and what steps you are taking towards achieving that representation.*

*Information you provide in this section will only be shared with the public in the aggregate.*

**Overall, 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. If the organization operates in a non-hierarchical structure, please answer for the collective.*

- As Black, Indigenous, and/or people of color (BIPOC)

**Leaders of color identify as:\***

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

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

- As both BIPOC and White (50/50)

**Leaders of color identify as:\***

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

**Additional identities and/or lived experiences represented in at least 51% of your organization's leadership?**

- Currently or formerly incarcerated
- Immigrants/Refugees
- Living with a disability
- Experiences or formerly experienced poverty/ hunger/houselessness
- Jewish

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- LGBTQIA2S+
- Women, non-binary/gender non-confirming, trans, or gender expansive individuals
- Youth under 24
- Prefer to self-describe:

**What are some steps your organization takes to ensure the leadership of those most impacted is (or continues to be) centered in your work?\*** *Limit: 300 words*

**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.*

**What 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 \$700,000. Everyone else must apply for project support.*

- Operating Support
- Project Support

**Request Title** *Describe what the grant seeks to accomplish through this application*  
*Limit: ie Build a politically and civically powerful collective of people to advance racial and electoral justice across Oregon. 30 words*

**How do you want to complete the application?\***

- Complete application by providing written narrative
- \*NEW\* Provide a video or audio recording - In your video or audio answer the following questions. Please keep the length to 10 minutes or under. Production quality is not a priority. *Upload your recording to a video hosting website like vimeo or youtube. And place the link to the recording in the space provided*

**Briefly tell us about your group. Include your group's vision, mission and programs/activities.\*** *In this section talk about your group and programs as a whole. Limit: 200 words*

**For 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.**

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**For Operating support: Tell us what you want to accomplish during the grant period.** \*If you're a fiscally sponsored group and the request is for general operations, answer this as general operating.

*In this section talk about what you will be doing over the grant period. i.e. increasing advocacy efforts, continuing current work, etc. Limit: 200 words*

**Tell us about the problems or issues you are addressing or trying to solve.\*** *If you already addressed this in the questions above, you are welcome to put N/A in this space. Limit: 300 words*

**Tell us about the approaches/strategies you are using to solve the issues or problems mentioned above, and how these approaches address the root causes of the problems.\*** *Relates to "systems change" on the scoring guide. Limit: 400 words*

**Tell us about how your group is building or shifting power in your community and working to change oppressive systems?\*** *Relates to "power building" on the scoring guide. Limit: 400 words*

**Tell us about your organizational partners. Who are they and how do you partner with them?\*** *For example, do you share space, clients, or programming? Do you fundraise or hold events together? Relates to "partnership building" on the scoring guide. Limit: 300 words*

**Anything else you'd like to tell us that would let us know that Seeding Justice should prioritize your request?** *In this section, you can expand on or clarify information related to another question or share something about the organization that isn't included in your answers. 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](#).*