

# **Tenant Outreach Fund**

## *Frequently Asked Questions*

### **1. Where does the Tenant Outreach Fund get its dollars?**

In the 2024 legislative session, Oregon elected officials passed a housing package that sought to ease the state's housing crisis and build more homes for low- and middle-income Oregonians.

In the package were two measures ([Senate Bills 1537](#) and [1530](#)) that passed both chambers with bipartisan support. Along with House Bill 4134, those bills sent a total of \$376 million to Oregon Housing and Community Services toward boosting housing production, funding infrastructure like roads and land acquisition, and supporting renters.

Thanks to the advocacy of the Housing Alliance, Seeding Justice was allocated \$1 million through the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department for tenant education and to provide support for residents whose housing may be withdrawn from publicly supported housing or is within a manufactured dwelling park being sold or closed.

In partnership with Oregon Housing Alliance members, Seeding Justice set up the Tenant Outreach Fund to distribute the allocated dollars in a way that builds the power of tenants and the communities most impacted by our state's housing crisis.

### **2. Who makes decisions about funding?**

Our Fund steering committee makes decisions on where we invest the allocated dollars. You can learn more [about them here](#).

### **3. Will we receive the full amount we apply for?**

While we always strive to award grants in the amounts requested, the steering committee reserves the right to modify the awards. This can mean decreasing or increasing the requests.

### **4. How much overhead can I charge for the project?**

Projects cannot charge more than 10% in overhead.

### **5. What am I allowed to spend this grant funding on?**

We have put together some sample activities that are allowed under this grant. [You can check them out here](#).

If you have specific questions about an activity that's not on the list, please [contact us](#).

**6. Are there types of groups or projects that are ineligible to apply or that Seeding Justice won't fund?**

To be eligible for this opportunity, applicants must be:

- 501(c)(3)-exempt organizations;
- Fiscally sponsored projects; OR
- A Tribal Government or entity

In addition, the project must:

- Serve people in the state of Oregon;
- Specifically serve tenants at risk of eviction from publicly-supported housing as defined by [ORS 456.250\(6\)](#) and manufactured dwelling parks, as defined by [ORS 443.003\(20\)\(a\)](#).

We cannot fund individuals, labor unions, businesses or nonprofits—such as professional associations, cooperatives, or political groups—that are not tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The grant funding cannot be spent on expenses that were incurred by the organization before it received the grant.

**7. What are the types of grants I can apply for under this fund?**

All of the grants under the Tenant Outreach Fund will be considered restricted project grants.

However, you'll be able to select whether you want to focus on immediate tenant needs or longer-term solutions. If you have capacity, you can also choose to do both.

**8. If we're awarded a grant, how long do we have to complete the project?**

You must complete the project's activities *and* expend all the funds by May 2027—no exceptions.

**9. Why do you care about the demographics of my organization's leadership?**

Communities most impacted by injustice are often left out of decision making tables and positions, so we prioritize partnering with organizations that can demonstrate that leaders in their communities not only are in frontline positions, but also have a say in how programs are developed and implemented.

**10. Why do you want us to track data?**

This grant opportunity is funded with public dollars. Seeding Justice as recipient, and grantees as subrecipients of these dollars are required to be good stewards of the public trust and report back to the State on who benefited with these grants.

Seeding Justice will not ask for or collect personally identifiable information from grantees or their beneficiaries and will only report aggregated data to the state.

**11. What do you mean by “leadership” of the organization?**

When we say “leadership,” we mean the folks in your organization who have decision-making power. These leaders may be your executive staff, lead volunteers (if you don’t have any staff), and/or board members.

**12. Can we apply for two or more grants?**

No, unless you fall under the following exceptions:

- a. You are applying for your own organization *and* as a fiscal sponsor of another group
- b. You are applying for your own organization *and* as the lead/backbone of a coalition or collaborative

Under the above circumstances, you cannot apply for the same projects. For example, if you apply as the lead in a collaborative, your own organization’s application has to be for a different project.

**13. We received another Seeding Justice grant this calendar year—can we still apply for a Tenant Outreach Fund grant?**

Yes.

**14. What’s a fiscal sponsor and how do I get one?**

A fiscal sponsor is a 501(c)(3) organization that agrees to serve as the fiscal manager for a smaller, non(c)(3) organization or project. Fiscal sponsors agree to receive grants and donations and manage the reporting and other legal requirements for the fiscally sponsored project in exchange for a small percentage of the grant(s) received.

There are organizations whose sole purpose is to serve as fiscal sponsors for others ([Social Good Fund](#) and [Tides Foundation](#) are a couple of them), but generally, projects can find fiscal sponsors in their own communities by connecting with 501(c)(3) organizations that have similar missions and that are willing to take on the responsibility of serving as an agent.

**15. Whose information do I enter in the application: our fiscal sponsor’s or our own group’s?**

You will enter your own group’s information, but the application will also ask you to provide your fiscal sponsor’s name and EIN.

If your project is funded, we will also ask you to submit a fiscal sponsorship agreement and, later on, both you and your fiscal sponsor will be asked to sign the grant agreement.

**16. Whose budget do we upload to the grant application?**

If you are applying on behalf of a Tribal government's specific department, please enter the department's (not the Tribe's) budget. If you are a fiscally sponsored project, select your budget, not your fiscal sponsor's.

**17. Do you have a sample budget we can use?**

Yes! [You can find one here.](#)

**18. Will this grant require grant reports?**

Yes. The Tenant Outreach Fund is funded by public dollars, so Seeding Justice is required to provide to the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department written financial and narrative reports. To provide these reports to OHCS, we will in turn need information and data from our grantees.

**19. Can we apply by sending you an application via email or regular mail?**

Yes, though applying outside of our online portal presents some challenges. [Please contact us](#) and we'll work with you to ensure you can submit your materials in a way that works for everyone.

**20. Is the information we submit confidential?**

Seeding Justices will not ask for or collect personally identifiable information and will only collect and report aggregated data to the OHCS.

Because these are public funds, however, all materials you submit to Seeding Justice—including your applications and grant reports—may be requested by OHCS, the Secretary of State, or the federal government.

**21. Is this a one-time opportunity or will funding be available again in the future?**

Right now, this is a one-time opportunity, but Seeding Justice will continue to advocate for ongoing funding for this and other opportunities.