FRI

Frontline Resource Institute

Grant Application and Review Timeline

AUGUST 12
Justfund Accounts
Created

SEPTEMBER 26
Grant Recommendations
to Tides

JULY 21
RFP Webinar

JULY 18
RFP Released

JULY 27
FAQ Document and
Webinar Posted
Online

AUGUST 16
Applications Due at 5
PM PT

**WEEK OF
OCTOBER 10**
Final Decisions
Announced
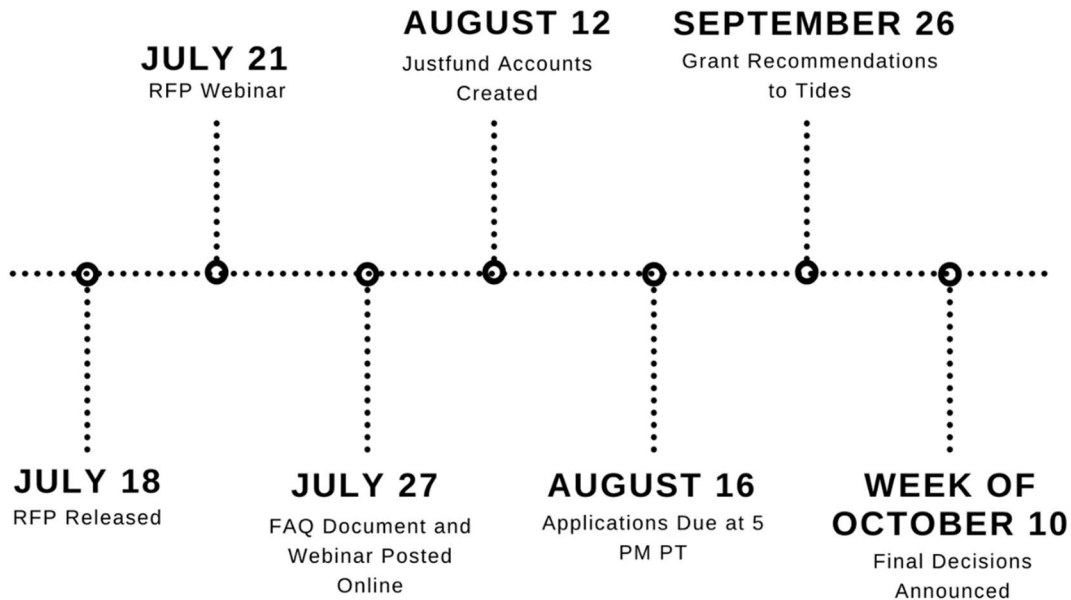
General Questions

How does FRI define environmental justice, climate justice, and frontline organizations?

FRI defines EJ, CJ, and Frontline organizations broadly, as we know many organizations engaged in this work do not define themselves using this language. For the purposes of this grant, we urge any organization that engages in work to ensure that communities can advocate for their fundamental rights to safe, healthy, and sustainable environments to apply. Organizations should be led by and/or guided by the communities they serve.

We encourage organizations doing intersectional work in this space to apply, provided that your organization fits the above description.

How does FRI define youth leadership?

Youth leadership involves centering the voices of young activists in an organization's work. This includes teens and students, among other young organizers. Though we have no specific age cutoff for our definition of youth leadership, we consider university students a part of this definition.

My organization has a broad mission but engages deeply in climate/environmental justice work. Can I apply for these grant opportunities?

Yes, your organization may apply. However, you must demonstrate in your application that your organization fits FRI's above definition of environmental justice, climate justice, and/or frontline organizations.

How many projects will be selected for funding?

Four (4) projects will be selected for Track 1, and eight (8) projects for Track 2. In total, 12 projects will be selected.

How long is the funding period?

For Track 1, the funding period is 2 years. For track 2, the funding period is 1 year.

Where can I view the Informational Webinar, Informational Slide Deck, and other grant information?

Please visit www.frontlineresourceinstitute.org/grant-applications/ for the above information. If you're unable to access the website, please email FRI@edf.org.

Track 1

What is the typical size for Track 1 organizations?

This is FRI's first grant cycle, so there is no precedent for Track 1 organization size. However, Track 1 grantees, if based in the U.S., must be 501(c)(3)s. If based outside of the U.S., Track 1 organizations must be nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).

What kinds of projects qualify under Track 1?

Track 1 is geared towards larger, more established organizations that are looking to take a step back from daily mission planning activities and strategize for the future. Many EJ, CJ, and Frontline organizations – even those that are well-established – do not get the chance to engage in strategic planning processes.

Can 501(c)4 organizations apply for Track 1?

No; currently, we are unable to accept applications from 501(c)(4) organizations.

Do strategic planning activities funded by Track 1 need to be complete by the end of the grant term?

No; we recognize that strategic planning takes time. However, your organization must be able to report on significant progress during the September 2023 grantee convening.

What can Track 1 funds be used for?

Track 1's funds are intended to support organizational strategy development, including the following activities:

- Developing a strategic plan (e.g. an organizational development strategic plan OR a strategic plan focused on a specific area of growth, such as fundraising, communications, program development, policy development, etc).
- Hiring additional full-time or part-time staff to support the strategic planning or organizational growth process
- Hiring a strategic planning consultant to support strategy development
- Meeting other long-term organizational strategic needs.

Can the strategic planning being done in Track 1 include planning for developing a 501(c)4?

Yes, provided that the funds are not used for direct lobbying purposes. Funds must be used to advance the charitable purpose of your organization.

Track 2

What can Track 2 funds be used for?

Track 2's funding can be used to cover a broad range of organizational needs, including but not limited to:

- Launching a new EJ/CJ initiative or program
- Expanding or extending an existing initiative or program
- Covering organizational costs such as:
  - Staff salaries/benefits
  - Operations-related costs
  - Accounting software and/or other relevant programs
  - Attaining 501(c)(3) status
- Establishing a stand-alone EJ/CJ group or initiative.

General operations expenses can be covered by Track 2 funding, provided you make clear in your application how the proposed activities will help your organization build sustained capacity.

What organizations can apply for Track 2?

For U.S. organizations, 501(c)(3)s and fiscally sponsored projects may apply for this grant. International organizations must be nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).

International Applicants

Can international organizations apply for Track 1 and Track 2 grants?

Yes, the Fund will consider proposals from non-U.S. nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). However, international grantees must complete and submit an additional international pre-grant inquiry form if selected.

I represent an international organization who would like to apply for this grant. Who can we reach out to for technical assistance?

Please reach out to FRI@edf.org and info@justfund.us for assistance on submitting your proposal. JustFund's platform is currently U.S.-focused; however, FRI's international applicants may apply through JustFund. Please see the International Applicant Guide for more information (to be posted by Friday, July 29, 2022).

Do you consider organizations in the U.S. territories as international or domestic applicants?

Organizations in the U.S. territories are considered domestic applicants.

Are U.S. organizations that do significant work internationally eligible to apply?

Yes.

Fiscal Sponsorship

If our fiscal sponsor is applying for a Track 1 grant for their organization, can we still apply for our project under Track 2?

Yes.

Are organizations fiscally sponsored by Tides eligible for these opportunities?

Yes.

Eligibility

Are these opportunities open to networks (membership-led organizations)?

Yes. U.S. organizations must be registered 501(c)(3)s or fiscally sponsored projects; international organizations must be nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).

If my organization is not a registered 501(c)(3), may I use a partner (who is a 501(c)(3) as a fiscal agency for this grant?

Fiscally sponsored projects are eligible for Track 2. We also accept joint applications- see below.

Are there any types of capacity building or strategic planning that this grant is not meant to support?

The funds from both tracks cannot be used to fund any activities that are inconsistent with a legitimate charitable purpose and applicable law, including any political campaigns. Further, proposed activities must be consistent with the Tides Foundation's [vision, mission, and approach](#).

Are organizations that are currently being funded by EDF eligible for this grant?

Yes.

Are there any board or leadership requirements (e.g. when serving Indigenous communities, 51% Indigenous leadership)?

There are no specific requirements; however, preference may be given to applicants with leadership from communities served by the organization.

Grant Review Process

Who will be reviewing my application? Who holds decision-making power around which grantees are chosen?

Applications will be evaluated by an independent group of EJ experts established solely for the purpose of recommending awardees. Following their review, an Independent Advisory Committee will make final recommendations to the Tides Foundation for recipients in both tracks.

Applications

If we are awarded Track 2 in this grant cycle, can we apply for Track 1 at another time?

Yes.

Do the supplemental questions have a word or character limit? Does character count include spaces?

There is no formal word or character limit on our application questions. Any word or character counts are suggestions are suggestions rather than binding requirements. The only exception is the "Project Summary" field, which has a limit of 140 characters, including spaces.

If I already have a JustFund account, do I need to create a new one?

No. You may use your previous account and existing proposals. For all other JustFund-related questions, please reach out to info@justfund.us for technical assistance.

Does FRI accommodate joint applications?

Yes. If applying with a partner or coalition, please select ONE organization to be the primary applicant through JustFund. In your proposal, please describe your partners and how your organizations envision grant dispersal between you and your partner organizations.

Do I have to submit a grant budget?

No, you do not have to submit an itemized grant budget with your Track 1 or Track 2 applications. However, for Track 1, you must provide documentation that your organization has managed grants **at or above $50,000 USD**. This could be in the form of an independent financial audit, an organizational budget, etc.

If selected, international organizations will need to complete an international pre-grant inquiry form, which may include a project-specific budget.