

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Grassroots Organizing for a Clean Energy, Forest Positive, Socially Just Future

Due Date: Expressions of interest must be received by 5PM PDT on March 8, 2021

Background

Who is issuing this request for proposals (RFP)?

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation aims to improve the lives of children, families, and communities—and restore and protect our planet. The [Climate and Land Use Program](#) supports diverse stakeholders engaged in developing policies and partnerships to halt and reverse forest loss, secure the rights of indigenous people and local communities, and advance sustainable land use and agriculture. The aim of its [Bioenergy strategy](#) is to build towards a clean energy and forest-positive future that is rooted in social justice to fight the climate crisis and safeguard the well-being of our children and grandchildren.

Objective and Scope

What is the purpose and focus of this RFP?

Grassroots organizing has frequently been able to move the needle on pressing social issues, and it is increasingly clear that organizing plays an essential role in environmental action and advocacy. Despite its importance, grassroots organizing only receives about 5% of environmental funding¹. The Bioenergy team seeks to partner more closely with grassroots organizations and support frontline communities in the southeastern United States and Canada where the strategy supports civil society organizations working towards a clean energy and forest-positive future with social justice at its heart.

In order to develop new partnerships, the Packard Foundation’s Bioenergy strategy is issuing a request for project proposals to grassroots organizations based in the US South or B.C, Canada that have programs focused on one of the following topic areas:

- **Forest protection and community land rights**
- **Frontline community organizing and power-building around social, environment, or climate justice**
- **Combating extractive energy industries (i.e. oil, gas, bioenergy)**

The Bioenergy strategy will provide funding of approximately \$50,000 per year for two years to each organization selected.

Qualifications and Selection Criteria

Who can apply?

All types of organizations (public, private, non-profit) are invited to submit an expression of interest. Please note that the Packard Foundation cannot provide grants to individuals. Organizations must be headquartered in Alberta or British Columbia, Canada or one of the following states in the U.S.

¹ based on data collected by the Environmental Grantmakers Association (EGA) on EGA members’ 2018 environmental grantmaking

(Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, or South Carolina) and should be deeply rooted in a specific community. These grants are intended to support small, grassroots organizations with annual budgets of \$450,000 or less.

Expressions of interest will be reviewed based on the following criteria:

- Alignment with topic areas of interest
- Depth of community engagement
- Qualifications, experience, and vision

The Bioenergy team recognizes that organizations led by or explicitly serving communities of color receive only a tiny fraction of philanthropic funds in the U.S.² This holds true in the environmental field, even though people of color care deeply about environmental and climate issues and are often on the frontlines of unhealthy extractive industry, environmental degradation, and climate catastrophe³. Similar trends are seen in hyper rural communities⁴. For this reason, organizations led by Black and Indigenous people and other people of color, as well as organizations located in geographically remote locations, are strongly encouraged to apply.

Application Process

How to do I apply?

To express interest in this request for proposal process, please submit a short paragraph about your organization and proposed project [online](#). The Bioenergy team will review all expressions of interest based on criteria listed above, and if the expression meets the criteria your organization will be invited to submit a project proposal. Proposals will be reviewed by a representative panel and four organizations will be selected as finalists and awarded grants.

Terms and Conditions

How much can I apply for and what is the timeline?

Four (4) finalists will receive up to \$100,000 over two years and will be eligible for additional non-monetary support from the Packard Foundation's [Organizational Effectiveness team](#). Grants will be awarded in June 2021 and finalists will have the opportunity to meet with each other and share learnings and best practices over the course of the two-year grant period.

The following is the expected timeline for this process:

Request for Proposals Issued	January 2020
Expression of Interest Due	March 8, 2021 by 5PM PDT
Invitation for Proposals Sent	March 15, 2021
Proposals Due	April 15, 2021 by 5PM PDT
Finalists Selected	May 2021

² Dorsey, C.; Bradach, J.; Kim, P. [Racial Equity and Philanthropy: Disparities in Funding for Leaders of Color Leave Impact on the Table](#). The Bridgespan Group. 2020.

³ Ballew, M. et al. [Which racial/ethnic groups care most about climate change?](#) Yale Program on Climate Change Communication. 2020.

⁴ Bonnie, R. et al. [Understanding Rural Attitudes Toward the Environment and Conservation in America](#). Duke University Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions. 2020

Grants Awarded	June 2021
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Contact Information

Expressions of Interest should be submitted on the [Land Use Program website](#).

Questions regarding the RFP and Expression of Interest should be sent to Genora Givens:
ggivens@packard.org.