

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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

Due Date: Expressions of interest must be received [online](#) by 5PM PST on Tuesday April 26, 2022

Background

Who is issuing this request for proposals (RFP)?

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation works with people and communities to create enduring solutions for just societies and a healthy, resilient natural world. The [Climate and Land Use Program](#) supports a range of stakeholders engaged in developing policies and partnerships to halt and reverse forest loss, secure the rights of Indigenous peoples 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. The Bioenergy team seeks to partner more closely with grassroots organizations in the southeastern U.S. and Canada where the strategy supports civil society organizations working towards a clean energy and forest-positive future with social justice at its heart. Last year was the first time the Bioenergy team hosted an RFP of this kind, and through the process selected seven new grantee partners.

To develop new partnerships and build on the 2021 RFP, **the Packard Foundation's Bioenergy strategy is issuing a request for project proposals to grassroots organizations based in the U.S. South or Canada that have programs focused on frontline community organizing and power-building around social, environmental, or climate justice in one of the following issue areas:**

- **Forest protection**
- **Community land rights**
- **Combating extractive energy industries (i.e., oil, gas, bioenergy)**

The Bioenergy strategy will provide funding of up to \$60,000 USD per year for two years to each organization selected, for a total of \$120,000 over two years.

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. Applicants may not be current grantees of the Packard Foundation. Organizations must be headquartered in Alberta or British Columbia, Canada or one of the following states in the U.S.: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, or South Carolina. Applicants 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.¹ This holds true in the environmental field, even though people of color care deeply about environmental and climate issues and are often most severely impacted by the negative impacts of extractive industry, environmental degradation, and climate catastrophe.² Similar trends are seen in hyper rural communities.³ 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 RFP process, please submit a short paragraph about your organization and proposed project [online](#). All expressions of interest will be reviewed based on criteria listed above by the Bioenergy team and a group of current grantee partners. If the expression meets the criteria, your organization will be invited to submit a full project proposal.

Proposals will be reviewed by a representative panel. Six organizations will be selected as finalists and awarded grants.

Terms and Conditions

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

Six finalists will receive up to \$120,000 USD over two years and will be eligible for additional non-monetary support and potential limited monetary support from the Packard Foundation's [Organizational Effectiveness team](#). Grants will be awarded in Fall 2022 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:

Expression of Interest Due	April 26, 2022 by 5PM PST
Invitation for Proposals Sent	May 10, 2022
Proposals Due	June 7, 2022 by 5PM PST

¹ 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.

² Ballew, M. et al. [Which racial/ethnic groups care most about climate change?](#) Yale Program on Climate Change Communication. 2020.

³ Bonnie, R. et al. [Understanding Rural Attitudes Toward the Environment and Conservation in America](#). Duke University Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions. 2020

Finalists Selected	July 2022
Grants Awarded	September 2022

Contact Information

Expressions of Interest should be submitted online on the [For Grantseekers website](#).

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