



Source: Young Women Empowered

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FUND

2021 Guidelines

ABOUT THE FUND

The Environmental Justice Fund is a grant opportunity for community-led projects that improve environmental conditions, respond to impacts of climate change and get us closer to achieving environmental justice. Community members and Seattle City Council worked together to create the Environmental Justice Fund in 2017. Visit the [Equity & Environment Initiative](#) to learn about the community work that led to the creation of this fund.

Selected members of Seattle's [Environmental Justice Committee](#) play a key role in the oversight of the Fund. The Committee's goal is to deepen the influence of communities of color in City environmental programs to ensure that the stories, experiences, and policy priorities of Black, Indigenous and People of Color shape Seattle's environmental work. The Committee is guided by the [Equity & Environment Agenda](#), a roadmap to advance race and social justice within Seattle's environmental work.

Projects will be awarded no less than \$25,000 and no more than \$75,000 for an 18-month period beginning January 2022. This year, up to **\$750,000** in funding will be available pending City Council's adoption of the Equitable Communities Initiative Task Force recommendations.

The Environmental Justice Fund Application is available [here](#).



WHAT WE FUND

Across the United States, race is the most significant predictor of a person living near contaminated air, water, or soil. It is for this reason that this fund supports efforts that are led by and benefit the people most affected by environmental and climate issues: people who are Black, Indigenous, People of Color, immigrants, refugees, people with low incomes, youth, and elders.

Projects must:

- Occur within Seattle city limits.
- Benefit people who live, learn, work, worship and play in Seattle.

Funds can be used to support:

- capacity building
- strategic planning or visioning
- community organizing
- coalitions
- climate preparedness
- air quality projects
- food justice projects
- advancing green jobs

Note: If your project takes place on property or land not owned by your organization or group, you must submit a letter of authorization from the owner of property/land.

PROJECT EXAMPLES

An organization and a community group partner together to remove asphalt and install rain gardens at a local community center. Rain gardens will treat stormwater and provide heat island mitigation. The project includes raised bed gardens to raise awareness about stormwater, climate resilience and the health benefits of green infrastructure.

An organization or community group provides community members with opportunities to grow food using regenerative practices, care for local wetlands, share a healthy community meal, access culturally-appropriate foods and participate in educational and civic engagement activities.

A community group organizes a walking tour that highlights environmental justice challenges in its neighborhood. It also creates a community-based participatory research program where community members from the neighborhood suggest solutions. These recommendations are collected and formally presented to elected officials and other decision-makers.

WHAT WE WILL NOT FUND

- Individuals are ineligible for funding.
- Acquisition of real property or land.
- Construction of buildings.
- Maintenance of existing facilities and physical improvements to non-natural areas of parks or existing recreational facilities that do not have a clear environmental justice purpose. This includes things like park benches, shelters, and sidewalks.
- Projects that are not accessible by the public.
- Scholarships.

If you are seeking funding for any of the above, let us know and we will recommend other grant opportunities for these kinds of projects.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

Organizations or community groups that have 501(c)3 nonprofit status or have a fiscal sponsor with 501(c)3 nonprofit status. If you need a fiscal sponsor but do not have one, please contact us at ejfrfp@gmail.com as soon as possible.

Organizations or community groups whose work is led by or centers Black, Indigenous and People of Color, immigrants, refugees, people with low incomes, youth, and/or elders and who have a deep understanding of their community's environmental justice issues.

Note: Only one application per organization is allowed, except if the organization serves as a fiscal sponsor for multiple projects.



VIRTUAL INFORMATION SESSIONS & SUPPORT

Join a virtual information session to learn more about the Fund, the review process, qualities of a strong proposal, and to ask questions!

Questions? Contact us at

 ejfrfp@gmail.com

 206.615.0817

Information Session 1:

Monday, August 16

3-4 pm

RSVP [here](#)

** If you would like interpretation, you MUST RSVP by Aug 9. **

Information Session 2:

Wednesday, August 25

12-1 pm

RSVP [here](#)

** If you would like interpretation, you MUST RSVP by Aug 18. **

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The Grantmaking Committee, made up of Environmental Justice Committee and community members, will review proposals for project purpose and clarity, alignment with Equity & Environment Agenda priorities, community benefits, feasibility, and budget. A strong proposal will include all the following characteristics.

ORGANIZATION

- The applicant demonstrates ties to its community. The community served is reflected in the staff of the organization or community group.
- Racial justice is a lived organizational value.

PROJECT

- The project has environmental justice and/or climate justice focus and outcomes.
- The applicant demonstrates a deep understanding of community issues.
- The proposed work demonstrates good planning.
- The goals are clear. The results are achievable.
- There are enough financial resources and community resources (such as community partnerships) for the work.

PEOPLE

- Community members are engaged in shaping and leading the project.
- There is an adequate number of staff/volunteers to carry out the work. They have the skills/expertise/lived experience to do the work.

IMPACT

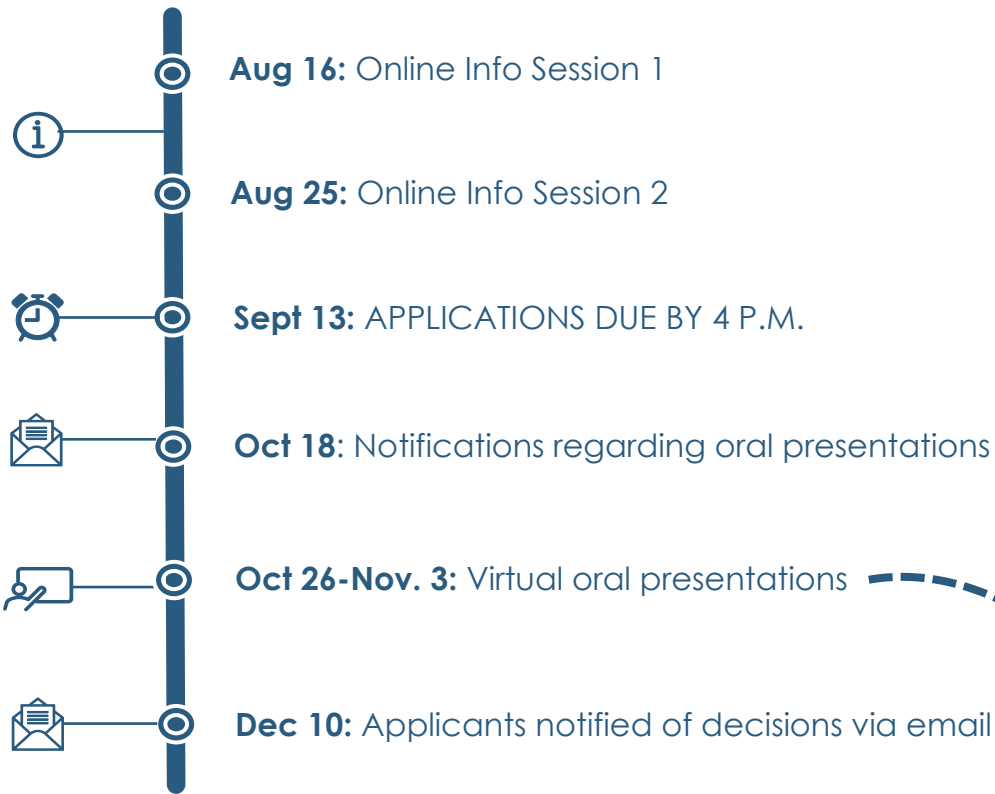
- Communities most impacted by environmental justice issues are benefiting from this project. They are people who are Black, Indigenous, People of Color, immigrants, refugees, people with low incomes, youth and/or elders.
- The project will build community capacity to address environmental justice/climate justice issues.
- The proposal will strengthen community networks, relationships and/or leadership.
- The project advances community priorities identified in the Equity & Environment Agenda: Healthy Environments for All; Jobs, Local Economies & Youth Pathways; and/or Environmental Narrative & Community Leadership.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- The proposal addresses geographies, ethnic or cultural communities, and/or approaches not typically recognized.

TIMELINE

2021



2022



2023



NEW THIS YEAR

- Due to the large volume of proposals we expect to receive, we will not be inviting all applicants to participate in oral presentations for this cycle. (In past cycles, oral presentations were optional for all applicants.)
- We will extend invitations for oral presentations only if there are questions about the proposed project and further clarification is needed. If invited, applicants must participate in oral presentations to move forward in the process.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What qualities are you looking for in the groups that apply?

Organizations or community groups should be able to demonstrate that their work is led by or centers people who are Black, Indigenous, People of Color, immigrants, refugees, people with low incomes, youth, and/or elders **and** they have a deep understanding of their community's environmental justice issues.

If my organization received a past grant from the Environmental Justice Fund, can we submit a proposal in the 2021 grant cycle?

Yes, but being a past grantee does not guarantee repeat funding. If you were funded in 2020, you cannot apply for the same project.

My office is not in Seattle, but the community my group serves is based in Seattle. Can we apply?

Yes. If your office is located outside of Seattle, you can apply if your project takes place within Seattle city limits AND primarily benefits people who live, learn, work, worship and play in Seattle.

Can a collaborative submit a proposal?

Yes, but one group in the collaborative must serve as the lead applicant group.

Do I have to participate in an oral presentation?

Not all organizations will be invited to participate in an oral presentation, but every organization that is invited must do so. If your organization is invited to participate in this phase, you will receive detailed information in advance. Presentations will be in English and interpreters will be provided, if requested.

Will oral presentations be held in person or virtually?

All oral presentations will be held virtually.

Can I submit more than one proposal?

Only one application per nonprofit organization or community group is allowed, except if the nonprofit organization is serving as a fiscal sponsor for multiple projects.

Can I act as a fiscal sponsor for another organization and submit an application on behalf of my own organization?

Yes, you can be a fiscal sponsor for another group and submit an application on behalf of your own organization.

Are grants for general operating or for projects?

Funds can support general operating OR projects as long as the activities in the proposal are directly focused on environmental or climate justice outcomes.

Where can I find more information about the Equity & Environment Agenda?

Download the [Equity & Environment Agenda](#), which is also available in [繁體中文 \(Chinese\)](#), [Soomaali \(Somali\)](#), [Español \(Spanish\)](#) and [Tiếng Việt \(Vietnamese\)](#).

If I have questions about the application, whom do I contact?

Please email ejfrfp@gmail.com or call 206.615.0817. While we cannot help you write your proposal, we are happy to answer questions, provide feedback and help you understand the application and the application process.