GENERAL FUND GRANTS INFORMATION

SPRING 2020

# INTRODUCTION

MRG Foundation's mission is to inspire people to work together for justice and mobilize resources for Oregon communities as they build collective power to change the world.

We fund Oregon-based, grassroots organizations that believe, like we do, that those most impacted by injustice are the ones best equipped to come up with solutions to the problems that affect them.

Starting in 2020, we are accepting applications from organizations of all sizes; however, we will continue to prioritize funding for smaller and emergent organizations.

# ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible for funding, organizations must:

* Be based in Oregon and/or their work must benefit those who call Oregon home; and
* Preferably, have 501(c)(3) tax exemption or have a 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor. If a group has neither federal tax exemption nor a fiscal sponsor, its work must be considered “charitable” or meet tax-exempt criteria per the IRS; and

If you are a current grantee, your previous grant must be spent down in its entirety, *and* the final report must be completed before the new grant begins.

Please review the [full eligibility requirements here](https://www.mrgfoundation.org/eligibility/).

# ALIGNMENT

A successful grant applicant will demonstrate that they:

* utilize community organizing, leadership development, advocacy and/or other strategies that build people's collective power to effect long-lasting, systemic change; and
* have a strong understanding of, and intentional practice against, racism, sexism, heterosexism, ableism, classism, xenophobia, antisemitism, Islamophobia, and other oppressions; and
* are intersectional in their approach; and
* address the root causes of injustice, not just its effects; and
* are led by the people most impacted; and
* understand their individual role within, and are actively fighting against systems of oppression, violence and injustice.

You can read more about our overall grantmaking strategies in our [Grantmaking Overview page](https://www.mrgfoundation.org/grantmaking-overview/).

# GRANT TYPES & AMOUNTS

Our General Fund grants can be used for operating or project support, depending on a few criteria. All of our grants are for one year.

* **Operating Support:** Operating support grants are reserved for 501(c)(3) tax-exempt groups whose budgets don't exceed $500,000. The maximum request allowed is $15,000.
* **Project Support:** Project support grants are available to exempt groups, non-exempt groups, and fiscally sponsored groups, regardless of budget size. The maximum grant amount is $15,000 for fiscally sponsored and 501(c)(3) groups and $7,000 for groups that have neither federal tax-exempt status nor a fiscal sponsor.

*Please note that while project grants are open to large-budget organizations,* ***funding priority will be given to smaller, grassroots groups that are led by the communities most impacted.***

MRG strives to fund grants as requested; however, our limited budget and the large number of applications received sometimes mean we must fund at slightly lower amounts.

# PROCESS & TIMELINE

All of our grant applications must now be submitted through [our Submittable platform](https://mrgfoundation.submittable.com/). To use the platform, groups will need to create an account, which is a fairly simple process.

From their account, groups will be able to submit applications, track their progress, send us additional documents, and submit reports, if we ever required any.

After groups submit their applications, our volunteer [Grantmakers](https://www.mrgfoundation.org/grantmakers/) will select up to 20 groups per cycle that will be asked to provide additional information and receive site visits. The timeline in this cycle looks like this:

* **Monday, March 16** - Applications open
* **Friday, April 17** - Deadline to apply
* **Mid May** - Applicants who make it to the next round (AKA finalists) will receive a phone call and should be ready to schedule a site visit. Applicants who don't make to the next round it will receive a decline email
* **Late May/Early June** - Finalists receive a site visit (in person, over the phone or via video chat) from grantmakers
* **Saturday, June 13** - Presentation Day in Eugene. Various—though not all—finalists participate in Presentation Day. Please plan on having one or two representatives there in case you are invited to attend
* **End of June** -Final notifications, grant agreements sent, and checks mailed

Once groups receive an award, they have one year to spend the funds. At the end of that year, they will be required to meet (in person or over the phone) with our Grants Program Director to give us their final report. That’s right—no more written reports!

# PRINTED APPLICATIONS

***We strongly encourage you to submit your application through*** [***our Submittable platform***](https://mrgfoundation.submittable.com/)*.* If you must, you can fill out a "paper" application (available below) and once completed, send it electronically to [grants@mrgf.org](mailto:grants@mrgf.org) or via regular mail to:

MRG Foundation

P.O. Box 12489

Portland, OR 97212

Applications **must be received** by the deadline.

# BEFORE YOU START…

Please read the following information carefully:

* [General Eligibility Requirements page](https://www.mrgfoundation.org/eligibility/)
* [Grantmaking Overview page](https://www.mrgfoundation.org/grantmaking-overview/)

# QUESTIONS?

Due to the high volume of inquiries and our limited staff capacity, we ask that you do the following before contacting us.

* Visit our [General Eligibility Requirements page](https://www.mrgfoundation.org/eligibility/)
* Visit our [Grantmaking Overview page](https://www.mrgfoundation.org/grantmaking-overview/)
* Attend one of [the three General Fund informational webinars](https://www.eventbrite.com/o/mrg-foundation-27603043155) scheduled for early March. If they have passed, you can check out our website for the link to the recording.
* Refer to our [Frequently Asked Questions page](https://www.mrgfoundation.org/grants-faqs/)

If you still have questions, please send an email to [grants@mrgf.org](mailto:grants@mrgf.org) and we'll get back to you within 48 hours.

If you experience technical difficulties with this site, please contact [support@submittable.org](mailto:support@submittable.com).

GENERAL FUND GRANT APPLICATION

SPRING 2020

*If you are a fiscally sponsored group, please fill out this application with your group’s information, not your fiscal sponsor's. We will request information about and/or from your fiscal sponsor separately.*

***All questions are required unless noted otherwise.***

# SECTION 1. ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION

1. **Name of Organization or Group.** *If your legal name and DBA are different, please enter both. For example: McKenzie River Gathering Foundation, DBA MRG Foundation.*
2. **Website.** *If you don't have a website, enter N/A*
3. **Mailing Address**
4. **Is your physical address the same as your mailing address?**

* Yes
* No

If not, what’s your physical address

1. **What's your service area?** *This refers to the geographic area(s) of the state in which you provide services or do most of your work. If you work in multiple geographic areas, please select Statewide.*

* Central Oregon
* Columbia River Gorge
* Eastern Oregon
* Oregon Coast
* Portland Metro
* Southern Oregon
* Statewide
* Willamette Valley

1. **Is this your first time applying for MRG funding?**

* This is our first MRG request
* We've applied before and received a grant
* We've applied before but did not get funded
* Not sure

1. **What's your group's tax-exemption status?**

* 501(c)(3) exempt.   
  If so, what’s your EIN?
* Fiscally sponsored  
  If so, what’s the legal name of your fiscal sponsor?
* No 501(c)(3) or fiscal sponsor

1. **Briefly tell us about your group's vision, mission and programs.** *You will expand on your work below so you may want to keep it fairly short here. Limit 300 words.*
2. **What is your group's primary focus?** *While your work may include several of the categories here, please choose the one (or two) that BEST describes what you do.*

* Arts & Media
* Civic Engagement
* Criminal Justice Reform
* Cultural Preservation
* Disability Justice
* Economic Justice
* Environmental Justice
* Food Justice
* Gender Equity
* Health/Healthcare Equity
* Housing Justice/Houselessness Issues
* Immigrant/Refugee Rights
* LGBTQ2SIA+ Rights
* Racial Justice
* Workers' Rights/Labor Justice
* Youth & Education
* Other focus (please specify):

# SECTION 2. LEADERSHIP DEMOGRAPHICS

*We want to know whether your group's leadership reflects the community you live in and those you aim to serve. If your leadership does not reflect the community you live in or serve, you may attach a brief explanation in the Additional Materials section.*

1. **How does the majority of your leadership identify?** *This question refers to the decision makers in your organization—the board of directors and/or the executive or key staff. By majority we mean 51% or more.*

* As Black, Indigenous, and/or people of color (BI/POC) – **go to Question 11**
* As both BI/POC and White (50/50) – **go to Question 11**
* As White/European American – **go to Question 12**

1. **Specifically, leadership identifies as** *(check all that apply)***:**

* African/African American/Black
* American Indian/Native Alaskan
* Asian/Asian American
* Hispanic/Latinx
* Muslim/Arab/South Asian (MASA)
* Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
* Other identities (please specify):

1. **What percentage, if any, of your leadership identifies as Black, Indigenous and/or people of color?***Please enter percentages, not number of people.*
2. **Any other identities that make the majority of your leadership?** *Check all that apply.*

* Women/Gender non-conforming/Nonbinary
* Immigrants/Refugees
* Living with a disability
* Living with low incomes
* LGBTQ2SIA+
* Youth under 24
* Other identities (please specify):

# SECTION 3. GRANT REQUEST

1. **Which type of grant are you applying for?**

* Operating Support. *Reserved for organizations that have 501(c)(3) exempt status AND whose annual budgets are less than $500,000*
* Project Support

1. **How much would you like to apply for?** *Max amounts are $15,000 for 501(c)(3) and fiscally sponsored groups; $7,000 for groups that have neither 501(c)(3) status nor a fiscal sponsor.*

# SECTION 4. ALIGNMENT WITH MRG

MRG seeks to partner with groups that:

* 1. utilize community organizing, leadership development, collective action and/or other strategies that build the collective power of people to change large-scale systems; and
  2. have an intersectional lens; and
  3. address the roots causes of injustice, not just its effects; and
  4. are led by the people most impacted; and
  5. understand their own role within, and are actively fighting against systems of oppression, violence and injustice.

Thinking about the above list, please answer the questions below.

1. **Tell us about your group's work.** *What problems are you addressing, what are your approaches to solving them, and why did you choose your specific strategies?* *Limit 400 words.*
2. **If you’re applying for project support,** **tell us about your specific project.** *Make sure to tell us about your project goal(s), the activities you plan to carry out, and what success will look like for you. Limit 400 words.*
3. **Optional: Anything else you'd like to tell us that would let us know MRG should prioritize your request?** *Limit 200 words.*

# SECTION 5. BUDGET(S)

*While you are not required to submit financial reports at this time, you should be prepared to submit them if your application moves to the next stage. You may download budget templates here:* [*https://www.mrgfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Budget-Templates.xlsx*](https://www.mrgfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Budget-Templates.xlsx)

1. **What's your group's annual budget?**
2. **Please attach your most current budget and, if you have it, next year's budget.**
3. **Please attach your project budget if you’re applying for a Project Support grant.**

# SECTION 6. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS - OPTIONAL

***You may include up to three additional materials*** *with your application if you think they might help us understand your work better. Please keep in mind that our grantmakers have a lot of applications to review—the shorter and clearer your materials, the better.*