RAPID RESPONSE GRANTS INFORMATION

# 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 primarily grassroots, Oregon-based 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.

A successful Rapid Response grant applicant will demonstrate that they:

* utilize community organizing, leadership development, collective action and/or other strategies that build the power of everyday people 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.

Our Rapid Response grants program is designed to provide grassroots organizations and community organizing projects, with rapidly deployed small grants to respond to emergencies and opportunities.

**Proposals for Rapid Response grants must clearly articulate the urgency for funds or immediate need of the organization.** If the request is not urgent, we encourage groups to apply for our [General Fund grants](https://www.mrgfoundation.org/general-fund-grants/).

# ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible for Rapid Response grants, groups must:

* have an annual budget of less than $500,000; and
* 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
* not have received another Rapid Response grant in the same fiscal year (MRG's fiscal year is from July to June)

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

# GRANT TYPES & AMOUNTS

* **Critical Response grants**: Maximum of $2,000 for immediate and critical needs. For example, community gatherings/meetings in response to local or national events or emergencies; unexpected challenges within the organization, such as an executive transition; or unique and timely opportunities, such as participating in a conference or urgent direct action.
* **Travel grants**: Maximum of $1,000 for grassroots organizations based in rural Oregon that are faced with unexpected travel expenses. Examples of the activities we would consider funding include travel to conferences, meetings or events that are unexpected but that present a unique opportunity for the organization to network, learn and grow.

# PROCESS & TIMELINE

Organizations may apply for Rapid Response grant funding on a rolling basis **provided that funds are available**. MRG replenishes the Rapid Response grant funding each fiscal year on July 1.

To the extent possible, we try to make Rapid Response grant funding available quickly, but we encourage groups, if at all possible, to plan ahead and **apply for funds at least two weeks** before they need the funds.

# PRINTED APPLICATIONS

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

MRG Foundation

P.O. Box 12489

Portland, OR 97212

# BEFORE YOU START...

Please go over the following information carefully:

* [General Eligibility Requirements](https://www.mrgfoundation.org/eligibility/)
* [Grantmaking Overview](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/)
* 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 and we'll get back to you within 48 hours.

If you experience technical difficulties with this site, please contact support@submittable.org.

RAPID RESPONSE GRANT APPLICATION

*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?
Please send your fiscal sponsorship agreement along with this application.
* 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.*

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, leaders of color identify 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?**
* Critical Response
* Travel
1. **How much would you like to apply for?** *Max amounts are $2,000 for Critical Response and $1,000 for Travel.*

# SECTION 4. MRG PRIORITIES

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. **Optional: Anything else you'd like to tell us that would let us know MRG should prioritize your request?** *Limit 200 words.*

# SECTION 5. CRITICAL NEED

*Rapid Response funds are meant to be deployed to respond to unexpected crises or opportunities. If you do not need the funds right away, we recommend you apply for one of our General Fund grants.*

1. **Please tell us what this grant would be used for and the crisis or opportunity that's prompting you to apply for funds at this time.** *Limit 400 words.*

# SECTION 6. BUDGET(S)

*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. **Please attach your group’s most current operating budget.**
2. **If Critical Response: Please upload the project’s budget.**
3. **If Travel: Please submit documentation of travel cost estimates.** *You may include printouts showing maps, airline estimates and lodging prices, reservation confirmations, etc. MRG covers mileage at the IRS-approved rate.*