



Racial Justice Grants Call Frequently Asked Questions

PURPOSE

What is the purpose of this funding?

This funding is intended for proposals that closely align with a vision of racial justice, which emphasizes lasting change of a systemic nature and a focus on building the power and capacity of communities impacted by racism.

Under the funding call, there are two types of grants:

- Development Grants provide funding to develop capacity, early-stage projects, and plans that may lead to new programming, projects, or infrastructure; and
- Initiative Grants provide funding to developed projects, programs, or strategies that require a more sustained investment in order to advance racial justice.

Why is the Law Foundation offering this funding now?

The Foundation shares in the collective obligation to work toward eradicating racial injustice and recognizes the need for grants that directly target and address racism within the legal system. Over the last year or so, the Foundation has reviewed its grantmaking processes to address potential barriers related to the goals of building racial justice and combatting systemic racism and discrimination. As part of that work, this funding call specifically encourages capacity-building activities in relation to racial justice and makes clear that these activities would be eligible for funding.

ELIGIBILITY

Who are these grants for?

The following groups may apply for funding:

- Existing non-profit organizations;
- Collaborative entities or groups; and
- People who are seeking to establish new organizations, collaboratives, or groups.

For clarity, Indigenous groups, communities, and/or First Nations are also eligible for funding and grant-seekers do not need to identify as law-focused groups and organizations, as long as their proposed work is connected with the legal system or the impact of laws and policies on people's lives.

In addition, proposals from Indigenous-, Black-, and People of Colour-led groups and organizations will be prioritized for funding under this call.

Do we have to be a registered charity or a non-profit to apply?

This call supports capacity-building activities and may fund people who are seeking to establish new organizations, collaboratives, or groups. As such, grant-seekers do not need to be a registered charity or other qualified donee.

Grant-seekers also do not necessarily need to be registered non-profit societies. Grant-seekers can however choose to submit a joint proposal with an organization that is a non-profit.

Grant-seekers who are not registered non-profit societies and those seeking to establish new organizations, collaboratives, or groups can expect additional discussion with the Foundation so together we can identify the best way to provide funding to you.

What can the funds be used for?

Grants are intended to be flexible, and funds can be used for both projects and core operating costs.

The types of activities that could be funded include community consultation; issue identification and research; strategic planning in connection to a project or program; assessments or feasibility studies for expanding programs and projects; and activities that increase group or organizational capacity through specific skills training and/or new tools.

Start-up funding may be considered in circumstances where new infrastructure is needed to do the work. Funding for existing projects and programs may also be considered where there is a clear connection to the grant-seeker's vision of advancing racial justice.

What kind of projects/activities will not be funded?

The following will not be funded:

- Proposals whose main purpose is the production of research studies, educational resources, and reports;
- Equity, diversity, and inclusion training for board/staff of organizations or program audits;
- Proposals that do not align with one or more of the Law Foundation's mandate areas; and
- Projects that will not significantly involve or benefit people living in BC.

In addition, because of the targeted focus of this funding call, funding will not be provided to proposals that only have connections to communities impacted by racism but that are not closely aligned to a vision of racial justice.

Our organization is White-led, not Indigenous-, Black-, or People of Colour-led, but we serve communities that face racial injustice. Are we still eligible?

Yes, White-led groups and organizations may submit applications under this call. However, in assessing an application, the Foundation will consider the group or

organization's track record with regards to racial justice work as well as other factors, such as the extent to which the group or organization makes investments from its own resources to make racial justice a priority in its work. Please note that the Foundation will also prioritize proposals from Indigenous-, Black-, and People of Colour-led groups and organizations.

For the purposes of these grants, how does the Law Foundation view or understand grant-seekers' identities?

The Foundation recognizes the complexity and intersectional nature of identities. The Foundation also recognizes that concepts of race and a racial justice framework may not necessarily be appropriate or sufficiently expansive when it comes to Indigeneity and Indigenous identities. The Foundation does not have a rigid way of defining whether a group or organization is Indigenous-, Black-, or People of Colour-led and, for the purposes of these grants, will ask grant-seekers to self-identity and indicate the extent to which their group or board/staff leadership identifies as Indigenous, Black, or People of Colour.

We have a proposal pertaining to Indigenous justice issues. Will this be considered for funding under this call?

Yes, this call welcomes Indigenous-led proposals and/or proposals pertaining to Indigenous justice issues.

Our organization is national, but we do some work in BC. Are we eligible?

Yes, depending on the nature and scope of the work being proposed. Please note that eligible grant-seekers must operate or intend to operate in BC and/or propose work that will significantly benefit people living in BC.

What are the Law Foundation's mandated funding areas?

The Foundation has five mandated funding areas:

- Legal education;
- Legal research;
- Legal aid;
- Law reform; and
- Law libraries.

For more information on the Foundation's mandated funding areas, please visit: <https://www.lawfoundationbc.org/about-us/mandate-mission-and-strategic-priorities/>.

We have a project idea, but we are not sure whether it aligns with the Law Foundation mandate. Can we speak to someone?

The Foundation takes an expansive view of its mandated funded areas. Eligible proposals may target a wide range of issues within the legal context and the context of racial justice, and do not need to be aimed at the Crown's justice system or the courts. To speak to someone at the Foundation about your idea, please email rjgc@lawfoundationbc.org.

We have previously received Law Foundation grant(s). Does this mean we cannot apply for this grant?

Past and ongoing grantees of the Foundation are welcome to apply for funding.

We have a project idea, but we need to develop it further through community consultation or needs assessment. Can we apply?

Yes, Development Grants under this call are specifically intended to support early-stage projects and plans that may lead to new programming, projects, or infrastructure.

Can we apply for more than one project?

Generally, we ask that grant-seekers prioritize and only submit one application, however if you have more than one project idea, please get in touch with us at rjgc@lawfoundationbc.org to discuss.

Do I need to start and end the use of these funds between a set deadline?

We offer some flexibility, but generally groups and organizations should expect to start their grant within one year of receiving funding. If your group or organization may not be ready to use grant funds right away, we encourage you to consider applying for funding in a future round.

GRANT PROGRAM DETAILS

What is the duration of the grant?

Development Grants are intended for activity up to one year although there can potentially be some flexibility around this. Initiative Grants can be for multiyear projects or activities, up to a maximum of three years. Depending on the scope of work, organizational capacity, and available funds, a longer duration or a higher grant amount may also be considered on an exceptional basis.

Will this funding only be offered this one time? If we get a grant now, does that mean we cannot apply for funding again in the future?

The Foundation expects to make multiple rounds of grants from this fund and, in designing the fund, set it up so it may be possible for groups and organizations holding a Development Grant to be able to apply for a larger Initiative Grant in a later round. However, while there is no limit or restriction on submitting additional applications in a future round, there is also no guarantee that grant-seekers will be successful in receiving funding in a later round. Please note that obtaining a Development Grant also does not guarantee acceptance for an Initiative Grant.

What is the maximum/minimum amount we can request?

Grant-seekers applying for a Development Grant can request up to \$25,000 for one year. Grant-seekers applying for an Initiative Grant can request up to \$200,000 per year for a maximum total grant of \$600,000.

What is the amount of funding available for this grant?

The funding available for the first round of grants from this fund is \$2 million.

APPLICATION PROCESS

What is the application process?

The application process consists of two steps for both Development Grants and Initiative Grants, although Development Grants will be adjudicated in a shorter time frame and under a more streamlined process than Initiative Grants.

In Step 1 for both Development Grants and Initiative Grants, grant-seekers will fill out a questionnaire and provide information about their group or organization and proposal. Only those proposals and groups or organizations most closely aligned with the priorities of the granting program will be invited to the next step.

In Step 2 for Development Grants, grant-seekers will be contacted by the Foundation and asked for additional detail relating to their proposal, including a budget.

In Step 2 for Initiative Grants, grant-seekers will have the choice between scheduling a conversation (oral application) with Foundation representatives or completing a written application form. Grant-seekers will also need to submit a budget during this step. Grant-seekers can expect the conversation to last between an hour and two hours depending on the scope of the work being proposed and other factors. The Foundation may also schedule follow up calls with grant-seekers after receiving written applications or completing oral applications.

Why do grant-seekers applying for Initiative Grants have the choice of participating in a conversation (oral application) or completing a written application? Has the Law Foundation previously used or offered oral applications?

The Foundation sees conversations as a potentially richer way to learn about grant-seekers' work and a more meaningful way to connect. However, grant-seekers have a choice of either participating in an online conversation (oral application) or completing a written application and the Foundation does not prefer one option over the other. The Foundation may reach out for additional information or ask questions by phone or in writing if a written application is submitted.

While this will be the first time the Foundation has offered oral applications, the Foundation has made significant investments in relationship-building and exchange with grantees over the years and has extensive experience in facilitating oral check-ins and reporting.

Will you provide questions for the conversations ahead of time?

Yes, questions will be provided in advance of the conversation being scheduled and before grant-seekers are asked to choose between proceeding with either a conversation (oral application) or written application.

How are you deciding what you will fund?

Applications will be assessed for alignment with the funding call granting priorities. An application will also be considered in terms of the extent to which it meets the following

criteria:

- Has a focus on racial justice;
- Is aligned with one or more of the Law Foundation's mandate areas;
- Has potential benefit to people and communities in BC; and
- Is led by groups or organizations with a track record of racial justice work.

Additionally, the Foundation will look to prioritize proposals from Indigenous-, Black-, and People of Colour-led groups and organizations, as well as proposals that have a significant focus on intersectionality.

Applications for Development Grants and Initiative Grants will largely be assessed along the same criteria. Grant-seekers applying for an Initiative Grant may also be assessed in terms of their existing capacity and for opportunities, such as established relationships, that will allow them to carry out the more significant work they are proposing.

Who is making the funding decisions?

Funding decisions will be made by the Law Foundation based on recommendations from the Racial Justice Advisory Committee (RJAC). The RJAC is a participatory advisory committee of the Law Foundation that will advise on process and help review and score proposals for Initiative Grants advancing to Step 2 of the application process. RJAC members may also attend some of the conversations (oral applications) scheduled with grant-seekers.

When can we expect to hear decisions by?

We expect to communicate Step 1 decisions for both Development Grants and Initiative Grants between April and May 2022.

Development Grants will be adjudicated in a shorter period of time than Initiative Grants, with the expected timeline for communicating final decisions for Development Grants by May 2022.

The expected timeline for communicating final decisions for Initiative Grants is between November and December 2022.

Please note that these timelines may change to allow more time for participatory grantmaking processes and engagement with both grant-seekers and the Foundation's Racial Justice Advisory Committee.

What kind of reporting requirements do these grants have?

The reporting structure is still being finalized and the Foundation will be seeking feedback and direction from the Racial Justice Advisory Committee on appropriate reporting requirements.

For now, grant-seekers can anticipate at least one report per grant year, consisting of both financial reporting (in writing) and narrative activity reporting (either in writing or

provided orally). The Foundation is also considering facilitating an event or online session to allow racial justice funding call grantees to connect with each other and share their learning and accomplishments.

SUPPORT

We have a question about the grants that is not answered here. Who do we connect with?

We are happy to answer your questions. Please contact Foundation staff at rjgc@lawfoundationbc.org.

We have some technical questions about the application process. How can we get help?

Technical questions or access needs can also be shared with Foundation staff at rjgc@lawfoundationbc.org.