

Frequently Asked Questions

Racial Justice Generate Grants Funding Call

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PURPOSE

What is the purpose of this funding?

This funding is intended for strategies developed over three years or more and require a more sustained investment to create lasting change of systemic nature to advance racial justice.

Why is the Law Foundation offering this funding now?

The Law 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 public policies and the legal system. In recent years, the Law Foundation has reviewed its grantmaking processes to address potential barriers related to the goals of building racial justice and combatting systemic racism and discrimination. This is ongoing work at the Law Foundation with this round of the Racial Justice Grants Call being shaped by learnings and grantee feedback from the inaugural and subsequent rounds of funding which began in 2022.

How does the Law Foundation define or understand racial justice?

The Law Foundation acknowledges there is not only one definition or understanding of racial justice. However, the following understanding outlines a premise from which the Law Foundation is building shared language and understanding to guide its work and grantmaking:

Racial justice decenters whiteness, acknowledges historical and current systems of harm to create deliberate systems that support the transformation of laws and policies, and generates collective power to access, build and uphold rights including those set out in the Charter, Indigenous legal orders and international law, for Indigenous, Black and racialized communities.

To further support shared language and understanding of racial justice, and to guide grant making, the Law Foundation has also developed a racial justice grant making framework which includes the following guiding principles, as outlined in the funding call:

- Community Accountability;
- Use of Anti-Racism Frame;
- Intersectionality;
- Meaningful Engagement; and
- Collaborative Community Advocacy.

We strongly encourage grant-seekers to review the Law Foundation's racial justice grantmaking framework in full. The framework can be found [HERE](#).

ELIGIBILITY

Who are these grants for?

The following groups may apply for funding:

- Existing non-profit organizations; and
- Collaborative entities 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.

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

While this funding stream encourages existing organizations to apply, grant-seekers do not need to be a registered charity or other qualified donee to apply.

Grant-seekers who are not registered or incorporated, including those seeking to establish new organizations, collaboratives, or groups, can expect additional discussion with the Law Foundation so together we can identify the best way to provide funding to you. Grant-seekers who plan for another organization to receive and administer funds on their behalf if funded are also asked to identify this in their application.

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. This funding call also encourages some capacity-building activities in relation to racial justice.

The types of activities that could be funded include expanding programs and projects, collaborating with other organizations on a shared issue, policy and legal advocacy interventions, and changing the dominant narrative by creating deliberate systems that support the transformation of laws and policies for healing and racial justice. The three focus areas of the Generate grants can be found at the link [HERE](#).

Start-up funding may be considered in circumstances where new infrastructure is needed to do the work such as creating a collaborative with representatives from a variety of established organizations.

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 (proposals can include publication, education, and research as tools to achieve the ultimate goal of the proposal);
- 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;
- Proposals that do not align well with the racial justice granting framework or the three Generate grants focus 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 other racialized community-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 any application, the Law Foundation will consider the degree to which it aligns with the Law Foundation's [racial justice grantmaking framework](#), including the guiding principles of Community Accountability and Meaningful Engagement. The Law Foundation would also consider how the proposed strategy centers Indigenous, Black, and racialized people's leadership, lived experiences, vision, and priorities. The Law Foundation may also consider a group or organization's track record with regards to racial justice work and the extent to which the group or organization makes investments from its own resources to make racial justice a priority of its mission and work.

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

The Law Foundation recognizes the complexity and intersectional nature of identities. The Law 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 Law Foundation does not have a rigid way

of defining whether a group or organization is Indigenous-, Black-, or other racialized-community-led and, for the purposes of these grants, will ask grant-seekers to self-identify and indicate the extent to which their group or board/staff leadership identifies as Indigenous, Black, and/or racialized.

Our organization is national/regional, 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 Law Foundation has five mandated funding areas:

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

For more information on the Law Foundation's mandated funding areas, please click [HERE](#).

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

The Law 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 Law Foundation about your idea, please email racialjustice@lawfoundationbc.org.

We have previously received or currently have Law Foundation grant(s) not related to racial justice. Does this mean we cannot apply for this grant?

This is an open funding call; past and ongoing grantees of the Law Foundation are welcome to apply for funding. Grantee status will not be taken into consideration for final adjudication decisions.

We received funding from the Racial Justice Grants Call last year. Can we apply for a second grant?

If you received a grant in previous years and are interested in applying for a grant, you can apply for another project idea. However, you cannot apply for your funded project. Grantees will have to complete their existing project and report on their learnings and outcomes to be eligible for another racial justice grant.

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

Generate Grants are meant for projects that are already established and are ready to expand. While a Generate Grant can include community consultations as part of the project, it cannot be the project itself. Your project idea might be best suited for our next grant call in 2025 which will fund capacity building, early-stage ideas and plans that may lead to new programming and projects.

Can we apply for more than one grant?

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 racialjustice@lawfoundationbc.org to discuss.

Do we 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 within a one-year period, we encourage you to consider applying for funding in a future round.

GRANT PROGRAM DETAILS

What is the duration of the grant?

Generate Grants are intended for activity up to four years. Depending on the scope of work and organizational capacity, a shorter amount of time may also be submitted.

Will this funding only be offered this one time?

The Law Foundation has multiple streams of racial justice funding and open grant calls happen semi-frequently. Due to the scope and amount of the Generate Grants, we do not expect to open another multi-year call for three to four years.

What is the maximum/minimum amount we can request?

Grant-seekers applying for a Generate Grant can request up to \$250,000 per year for a maximum of \$1,000,000 total over four years.

What is the amount of funding available?

\$10 million is available for this round of the Racial Justice Grants Call.

APPLICATION PROCESS

What is the application process?

Grant-seekers will complete a first-stage application using the Law Foundation's SmartSimple online grant submission and management system. If short-listed for the second stage, grant-seekers will have the option to apply via an oral or written application and the Law Foundation will ask for a proposed project budget.

How do we register for a SmartSimple account?

The Law Foundation uses the SmartSimple online grant management system. You can find The SmartSimple Portal [HERE](#).

Groups and organizations new to the Law Foundation's SmartSimple system will need to first register for an account. If you do not have an organizational address, simply enter "N/A" for all address fields during account set-up (we ask that you please avoid providing any personal/home addresses).

What do we need to provide as part of the first-stage application?

The first-stage application consists of four required narrative questions, and a series of fill-in fields. No budget is required but may be requested at a later stage. You can find the questions [HERE](#).

We have set a limit of 500 words (about one page) for each narrative question. The word limit is set to respect grant-seekers' time and reduce the pressure to figure out every aspect of the project at this point. If you have additional information to communicate about your proposed project or idea, we ask you use the optional fifth question at the end of the application form.

Foundation staff will reach out during review of applications, if any additional information or clarity is needed.

How will the Law Foundation decide what to fund?

Applications will be reviewed and assessed for alignment with the Law Foundation's [racial justice grantmaking framework](#) and the granting priorities for this round of funding. We are looking for ideas, proposed solutions, and visions of racial justice – not perfect spelling and grammar.

Competitive applications at the first stage are likely to be:

- Led by, focused on serving, and accountable to racialized communities (Community Accountability guiding principle)
- Able to demonstrate an understanding/analysis of structural racism (Use of Anti-Racism Frame guiding principle)
- Aligned with one or more of the other guiding principles from the Foundation's racial justice grantmaking framework (Intersectionality; Meaningful Engagement; Collaborative Community Advocacy)
- Demonstrates one or more of the three focus areas for Generate Grants

When can we expect to hear decisions by?

We expect to communicate shortlisting decisions by July 2024 and final funding decisions by March 2025. If for any reason this timeline changes, we will let all grant-seekers know.

What kind of reporting requirements do these grants have?

Grant-seekers will be asked to provide one report each year for the grant, consisting of financial reporting (in writing) and narrative activity reporting (either in writing, provided orally, or by attending the Racial Justice Shared Learning Day). The Law Foundation convenes grantees for shared learning opportunities and Generate grantees will be invited to participate in these events.

SUPPORT

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

There are three ways to get in touch with us to discuss any questions you may have. We are here to support you.

Info Sessions

We will be hosting information sessions on April 16th and May 1st. To sign up for one of these sessions, please follow the links below.

- April 16th from 12-1pm PT: Register [HERE](#)
- May 1st from 6-7:30pm PT with ASL interpretation: Register [HERE](#)

Virtual Meeting

We understand the information session timing may not work or you are looking for answers to specific questions. To book a time with our team, please click [HERE](#).

Email Us

We are happy to answer your questions via email as well. Please email racialjustice@lawfoundationbc.org with your message. Please be advised that it may take up to five business days for our team to respond.

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

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