



# Frequently Asked Questions

Updated November 9, 2023

1. Q: What is the [Fund for Frontline Power](#)?

A: The Fund for Frontline Power (F4FP) is a new autonomous fund, fully governed by grassroots leaders, that supports frontline-led climate solutions and accelerates the flow of resources to communities on the frontlines of the climate crisis.

2. Q: How did the Fund for Frontline Power get started?

A: The climate justice movement created the Fund for Frontline Power in response to the massive first round of Bezos Earth Fund (BEF) grants, which overwhelmingly went to traditional, very well-resourced “big green” environmental groups. Shortly after the Bezos Earth Fund announced its intention to launch with a \$10 billion philanthropic commitment in 2020, Climate Justice Alliance and the Regenerative Economies Organizing Collaborative [published a letter](#) calling for Jeff Bezos and the Bezos Earth Fund to prioritize equity and frontline climate leadership. Climate justice movement leaders and allies [called on big green and funder intermediary recipients of BEF grants to transfer a portion of this funding](#) to frontline groups. In 2021, they created the grassroots-led Fund for Frontline Power as a vehicle for receiving that funding and additional funding from other supporters. The fund is designed to bridge the gap between major donors and small community-based climate justice groups and accelerate funding for frontline climate solutions.

3. Q: Who has contributed to the Fund for Frontline Power?

A: Seven funders and three big greens have contributed a total of \$5.91M to the Fund so far. Of our current funders, seven are Bezos Earth Fund grantees.

Fund for Frontline Power funders to date			
Bezos Earth Fund grantees		Other Supporters	
Funder	Amount	Funder	Amount

The Solutions Project	\$1,000,000	Seventh Generation Foundation	\$500,000
Hive Fund for Climate & Gender Justice	\$1,000,000	Ceres Trust	\$350,000
ClimateWorks Foundation	\$650,000	Swaha Foundation	\$100,000
Building Equity & Alignment for Environmental Justice	\$760,000		
Union of Concerned Scientists	\$850,000		
Rocky Mountain Institute	\$200,000		
Natural Resources Defense Council	\$500,000		

4. Q: What are the various roles of the core Fund partners?

A: [The Solutions Project](#) administers and houses the Fund for Frontline Power at the request of frontline justice organizations.

[Climate Justice Alliance](#) has been a key part of the start up of the Fund for Frontline Power, and continues to support on communications and fundraising. Climate Justice Alliance, a grassroots-built, grassroots-led alliance, coordinated the initial movement action calling on Bezos Earth Fund grantees to redirect a portion of their awards to the grassroots via a new, fully grassroots-governed fund - the Fund for Frontline Power.

[People's Climate Innovation Center](#) provides facilitation support to the governance body of the Fund for Frontline Power.

5. Q: Why is the focus on funding grassroots-led climate solutions?

A: We are living through a time of crisis, collapse, and transition. While transition is inevitable, justice is not. We are big believers that those closest to the problems hold the best solutions. The Fund for Frontline Power is committed to supporting community-rooted, equitable, practical climate solutions that cut emissions, facilitate resilience, strengthen local regenerative economies, and build power on the front lines of the climate crisis.

6. Q: What is the importance of being grassroots-governed?

A: The Fund for Frontline Power is an experiment in movement-led philanthropy. This model not only shifts dollars, but also shifts decision making and disrupts status quo philanthropy. The Fund for Frontline Power gives us the opportunity to move wealth back to the communities that built it.

7. Q: How did the governing body form?

A: 13 climate justice movement organizations nominated grassroots leaders to serve on the Fund for Frontline Power's governing body, which is fully vested with decision-making power. The governance body intentionally brings together experienced leaders with varied lived and movement experiences to comprise a robust team to lead all decision-making for the fund.

More information about the F4FP governing body can be found on the [Our Leaders](#) page of our website at [www.fundforfrontlinepower.org](http://www.fundforfrontlinepower.org).

8. Q: How does the governance body make decisions?

A: The F4FP governance body has been meeting monthly throughout the last year to collaboratively make decisions about the focus, strategies, and protocol for the Fund. Thus far, decisions have been made by collectively processing the options, gathering needed information, and working our way to group consensus.

9. Q: When will the first grant cycle take place?

A: The first grant cycle opened on November 1, 2022 and closes on January 15, 2023. We anticipate making funding decisions by early March 2023.

10. Q: When will funding be awarded?

A: Our goal is to be able to disperse grants in late March 2023.

11. Q: Will the process be an open application? How can I apply?

A: Yes, the application process is open to any organization that meets the criteria. Instructions for how to apply can be found at the [Apply for Funding](#) page on our website, which is [www.fundforfrontlinepower.org](http://www.fundforfrontlinepower.org).

12. Q: What kind of groups will you fund?

A: We will support organizations that:

- Have a Black, Indigenous, or Person of Color as Executive Director/CEO and have majority Black, Indigenous, or People of Color leadership among staff & board
- Are grassroots based and serve Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities as priority
- Are 501c3 non-profit OR are fiscally sponsored non-profits
- Demonstrate community work and partnerships through their history of work
- Have an annual budget of no more than \$1.5 million

A portion of our funds are restricted to support organizations that either:

- Led by Indigenous Peoples,
- Work with environmental justice communities in the Gulf South,
- Work on clean transit, or
- Work on energy democracy, energy efficiency, and renewable energy access.

The majority of our funding has no restrictions. Regardless, the grants will be for general operating support of funded organizations.

13. Q: Will there be limitations on size, geography, or other defining characteristics?

A: Grants made through Fund for Frontline Power are not limited to specific geographic areas; however, we will make an effort to have a good geographic distribution of grants and will give attention to geographic areas that are typically underfunded.

The F4FP is focused on getting funding to frontline organizations that often don't receive the support they need. We highly encourage the following types of organizations to apply:

- those without 501c3 (using a fiscal sponsor),
- small organizations with 5 employees and below, and
- those with budgets of \$500K and below.

14. Q: What size will the grants be?

A: Grants will be made via a tiered system to determine the amount. Generally, they will range between \$25,000-\$250,000.

Applications will be open for any eligible organization to apply using the following budget tiers for the amount of funding that would be awarded:

- Tier 1: Organizational budget of \$0-500K per year is eligible to apply for grants of up to 50% of current annual budget (grant awards up to \$250K).
- Tier 2: Organizational budget of \$501k-999K per year is eligible to apply for grants of up to 25% of current annual budget (grant awards between \$125k-250K).
- Tier 3: Organizational budget of \$1m-1.5m per year is eligible to apply for grants of up to \$100K.

15. Q: How many grants will be awarded?

A: The total number of grants awarded will depend on the number of projects in each budget tier. Currently the Fund has about \$5M in funds to disperse which can mean 20-40 grants total ranging from \$50,000-\$250,000.

16. Q: Can applications be submitted by more than one organization? For example, if projects are collaborating or part of a coalition, can they apply under one application?

A: Yes, for applications that involve more than one organization, you may combine your individual budgets in order to apply within a tier that reflects your combined annual budgets in order to receive more funds. Collaborative applications are not required, however if this makes sense for your budget and capacity on a particular project, then it is encouraged!

17. Q: What kind of things can the funds be used for?

A: The F4FP grant awards will not be project specific. The grants will be given as unrestricted, general operating support to grassroots organizations who are

implementing climate solutions that are inclusive, regenerative, replicable, and scalable.

18. Q: What is the future of this fund?

A: Following the first round of funding (anticipated to culminate in March 2023), the governance body will hold an evaluation and make all decisions about the future of the Fund.

19. Q: Can projects working outside the US apply?

A: We recognize the outsized impact capitalism and climate change has on the global south. While we don't have the capacity to outreach or screen an international pool of applicants we wanted to make funds available for trusted partners working on climate issues beyond the US. We have opened this funding to CJA members working in the global south so they can apply directly for their international projects.

20. Q: Can both written and video applications be submitted?

A: Our preference is that a project submit either a written application or a video or audio recording, but not both. All applicants must complete the first portion of the application in writing with their organizational information and eligibility criteria affirmations even if applying with video or audio recording. There are instructions for submitting responses to the questions about your project and work via video or audio in the application.

21. Q: Do applicants need a fiscal sponsor in order to apply?

A: No. If a project is not a 501c3 or not currently fiscally sponsored, we ask that projects who are selected be able to enter into a fiscal sponsorship relationship in order to receive funds. We do not want projects to expend time and energy getting a fiscal sponsor in order to apply with no guarantee of funding. Applicants should be prepared to have a fiscal sponsor in place in order to receive the funds when grants are distributed in March 2023.

To find a fiscal sponsor in your area or one that is mission aligned, the National Network of Fiscal Sponsors has a searchable directory of fiscal sponsors [online](#). The Governance Body is also happy to make recommendations of trusted fiscal sponsors without our respective networks. Please email the [info@fundforfrontlinepower.org](mailto:info@fundforfrontlinepower.org) for a fiscal sponsor referral.

22. Q: Does our fiscal sponsor need to meet the criteria of being BIPOC-led and have a budget of \$1.5M or less?

A: No, it is the project applying that should meet the criteria and not their fiscal sponsor that is being taken into consideration. For organizations using a fiscal sponsor to apply, the budget guidelines apply to the applicant organization, not the fiscal sponsor.

23. Q: Will the F4FP offer technical assistance (TA) to support projects to implement their grants?

A: Currently the F4FP Governance Body does not have capacity to offer TA to grantees but can make recommendations of TA providers within our respective networks who work with grassroots organizations on capacity-building such as grant management, program design and communications. Grantees can use their grant funding to pay for capacity building for their organization.

24. Q: Are there required deliverables as part of the application or reporting requirements if funded?

A: No. The Solutions Project who is managing the disbursement of the funds will send grantees a brief questionnaire at the end of the year to ask how the funds supported the project. This is intended to inform the Governance Body and contributors to the Fund about the impact of the funds and funding decisions- it is not intended to be onerous or require any financial accounting of how the funds were used.