**CS Fund Just Transitions Grant Program**

*Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)*

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### Who is CS Fund?

[CS Fund](https://csfund.org/just-transitions) is a nonprofit family foundation dedicated to creating an equitable democracy and a just transition to a regenerative economy and food system. CSF addresses critical, under-resourced issues; contends with root causes of problems; and seeks systemic solutions. We practice values-aligned grantmaking and investing and serve as a partner and resource to our grantees. As a small foundation, we strive to educate and organize other funders to invest in critical strategies and organizations, and bring our institutional voices together to advocate for important issues related to our grantmaking.

### What is the Just Transitions program?

We are inspired by movement leaders in environmental justice, worker justice, climate justice, Indigenous Sovereignty, Black Liberation and more in their collective framing of [Just Transition](https://climatejusticealliance.org/just-transition/): “Transition is inevitable. Justice is not.” After hundreds of conversations with movement leaders, frontline organizations, and other funding allies around the globe, the message that CS Fund repeatedly received regarding how we can support work toward Just Transitions is to build connective tissue and relationship between and across movement sectors, geographies, and cultures. Therefore, the purpose of the CS Fund Just Transitions program is to resource and support intersectional, community-level social and ecological justice at a scale that can challenge and shift systemic power from our current extractive, supremacist culture to one of justice, joy, belonging and liberation for all living beings and ecosystems. Our program will have a foundation that is anti- racist, casteist, sexist, ableist, imperialist, anthropocentrist, and exploitative.

### What other work does CS Fund support?

CS Fund has three other program areas: (1) Rights and Governance, (2) Food Sovereignty, and (3) Emerging Technologies, which is sometimes referred to as Fighting Emerging Technological Threats.

### When can I apply?

Applications opened on January 4th. The original deadline was March 1st. **This deadline has now been extended to March 8th!**

### Where can I apply?

Applications are submitted online using our platform. You can apply at this link: https://csfund.smapply.io/.

### What type of work are you funding?

The program’s main priority is on resourcing *social justice* and *ecological justice* to advance *community power building and self determination*. The broad list of movement sectors that we are funding are listed on the Just Transitions [Request for Proposals (RFP)](https://csfund.org/s/CSF-Just-Transitions-RFP.pdf). We are primarily focusing on supporting grassroots and frontline organizations across various movements and sectors that can shift our social, economic, and cultural systems towards Just Transitions. We also recognize that movement networks and alliances are core to power building, so we will also fund regional/national/international movements. The funding of these broader scale movements will be done at the where grassroots and frontline communities tell us they find value in.

### What are Just Transitions?

We specifically use the [Just Transition framework](https://climatejusticealliance.org/just-transition/) as a starting point that was developed by movement organizations in North America through an assembly decision making process grounded in grassroots organizing. In this framing, Just Transitions are not just about low-carbon economic development, or how to fulfill environmentally friendly capitalistic development, but a fundamental shift in how our human communities relate to each other and to our ecosystems that embodies social and ecological justice. Other cultures around the world use different frameworks that reflect the same values: Buen Vivir, Ubuntu, Ujamaa, Ecological Swaraj, Indigenous Sovereignty, and many other frameworks offer a pluralistic approach to what we are collectively building. The program at CS Fund embraces each of these framings, as well as others that move us through these same intentions and pathways.

### How do you define social justice?

We define social justice as a communal effort dedicated to creating and sustaining a fair and equal society across economic, political, and social rights and opportunities in which each person and all groups are valued and affirmed. Eligible organizations shouldl have an explicit mission towards racial justice and/or caste equity. The work should also advance gender justice, LGBTQIA+ justice, and Indigenous rights.

### How do you define ecological justice?

We adopt [Movement Generation’s framing of Ecological Justice](https://movementgeneration.org/ecological-justice/) as the state of balance between human communities and healthy ecosystems based on thriving, mutually beneficial relationships and participatory self-governance. Eligible organisations should work on land, water, and climate justice or on issues related to [Rights of Nature](https://www.aclrc.com/rights-of-nature). We realize that certain movements and organisations might be more experienced in social justice work and are starting to move into the ecological justice space – we welcome applications from these organisations provided that they meet the other eligibility requirements.

### What do you mean by being accountable to communities?

Applicant organisations should be accountable to the communities that they are working in and serve. This means that there is a feedback loop and organisations respond to, learn, and adapt to feedback from communities. In the case of movement, network or international organisations, there should be accountability to the grassroots organisations and communities that they work with.

### What is community power building and self determination?

According to the [Climate Justice Alliance](https://climatejusticealliance.org/just-transition/), “All peoples have the right to participate in decisions that impact their lives. This requires democratic governance in our communities, including our workplaces. Communities must have the power to shape their economies, as producers, as consumers, and in our relationships with each other. Not only do we have the right to self-determination, but self-determination is one of our greatest tools to realize the world we need. The people who are most affected by the extractive economy — the frontline workers and the fenceline communities — have the resilience and expertise to be in the leadership of crafting solutions.”

### What geographies are you funding?

We are funding four (4) regions around the world:

Central America and Caribbean: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Hondura, Nicaragua, and Panama, as well as countries and territories of the Caribbean Sea.

South Asia: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka

United States: All 50 states, as well as territories in the Caribbean, with a preference for work in the Midwest, Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico.

West Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo

### What is the average grant size and how much overall funding is available?

Grants will fall into the range of $30k-$100k USD per year, which will be determined by the grantee's needs, capacity, and direction. Grants will generally be provided as unrestricted funds or as general support. Grants will be for 3 year commitments with the potential to renew for another term at the end of the program cycle We anticipate that 30-40 awards will be made across this program cycle starting in June 2023. The overall funding that will be distributed by the Just Transitions program will be $1.5 million USD per year.

### How do I know if I should select Core or Experimental work?

Core grantees will be those that are recognized as being established by and core to the communities and fields in which they work. These grants will help scale and spread their work. Experimental grants will support work in new directions and approaches. These grants could support emerging organizations or projects, as well as new initiatives that established organizations are venturing into. This question is to better understand the field and how many applicants are seeking core support and how many are seeking experimental support. We want to be sure to resource both areas of practice. If your work contains elements of both, just choose the best fit.

### We identify our work in a sector that is not on your list in your RFP. Can we still apply?

Yes! The list of sectors is inclusive and not exclusive. In other words, we are trying to show a large breadth of work that we would like to resource, and recognize that the work of Just Transitions can also lie outside of this list.

### We are an organisation that is not based in the US. Can we apply for funding?

Yes! CS Fund currently funds many organisations and programs in non-US countries. The Just Transitions program will do so, as well.

### We are a frontline organisation working on social and ecological justice and in the priority regions that you are funding. Should we apply for funding?

Yes! These are exactly the organisations that we seek to support.

### We are a frontline organisation, but work in a community/region outside of your focus area. Should we apply for funding?

At this time, we are focusing on resourcing the movement ecosystems in the selected regions. We will not be funding work outside these regions, unless it is at a broader international level that also includes work in the four priority regions.

### We are an international NGO with offices in the communities you fund. Should we apply for funding?

As our main priority is to resource grassroots and frontline community power building work, we encourage you to send the application to your partners on the ground. If they tell us that they value your organisation or movement work, then we will reach out to you directly. There is no need for you to send in an application.

### We are a research and/or academic center that does research in the geographies you fund. Should we apply for funding?

Similar to the last question, we encourage you to send the application to your partners on the ground. If they tell us that they value your organisation or research work, then we will reach out to you directly. There is no need for you to send in an application.

### We are an intermediary funder who give grants in the sectors you fund. Should we apply for funding?

We are trying to resource grassroots organisations directly. We hope you can send the application to your grantees and partners on the ground!

### Can our organisation send in more than one application?

Please only submit one application! We are funding organisations as a whole, not specific programs.

### We are currently funded by CS Fund. Can we still apply for this program?

Please reach out to your point of contact at CS Fund and let them know that you are interested in applying and if you would be a good fit. They will be able to respond to you with the best information for your organisation.

### English is not our preferred language. Do you have application materials in other languages, and can send in proposals or applications in other languages?

Yes! For non-native English speakers, we will accept written proposals in other languages. We will also send a translated version of these questions if requested. Please submit these proposals or ask for a translated version by emailing JTapplications@csfund.org.

### If I have additional questions, who should I contact?

If you have additional questions about the Just Transitions program or application, please contact us at JTapplications@csfund.org.