

Activist Collaboration & Care Fund Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. How many grants does Ms. Foundation anticipate making, and what size grants will be awarded?

Ms. has currently allocated \$400,000 to be granted in the summer of 2022. Ms. anticipates providing approximately \$20,000 in general operating support to 20 organizations during this funding round.

2. How long is the grant period?

One year.

3. What type of work would you fund?

Funds can be used for efforts focused on collaborative strategy and action within and across movements, as well as developing and implementing practices associated with healing justice. Examples of efforts that would be funded include, but **are not limited to:**

- Staff time, food, translation, materials and childcare among other costs that enable organizers and movement building organizations to:
 - Listen and collaborate with directly impacted communities
 - Build the base of supporters
 - Engage in resource and power mapping
 - Adapt and coordinate tactics
- Practices for healing and transformation for individuals within organizations
 - Mediation, mindfulness, somatic practices
 - Access to emotional support practitioners
 - Coaching and learning circles
 - Child and elder care
 - Stipends for staff members and volunteers
 - Wellness, rest and restoration
 - Physical and digital security
- Models for shared power and accountability within and across organizations, such as:
 - Transformative justice and conflict resolution training and mediators
 - Coaching for co-directorship and shared leadership models
 - Support to develop healthy organizational cultures, especially that include healing and restoration practices
- Increased access to and support of healing and security practices within social movements, including support for networks of practitioners and capacity builders

4. What is healing justice?

Healing justice is a framework for movements to address collective harm and trauma. It focuses on survivor-led resiliency, sustainability, and healing practices that prioritize the collective care, safety and wellbeing of communities in crisis. It is a response to generational trauma and systemic oppression.

[Astraea Foundation's Healing Justice Framework](#) explains: “these practices address the impacts of violence and trauma, including interpersonal, systemic and generational violence, and they promote our collective safety, sustainability and wellbeing. When integrated into movement strategies, these practices support us, as organizers and communities, to prioritize our safety and to care for each other towards our long-term survival.”

Funding the holistic sustainability and wellness of organizations is essential so that they have the capacity to innovate, shift, and resist. Healing justice is necessary for supporting successful and sustainable movements. That being said, we recognize that healing justice cannot be prescriptive and is deeply personal. Healing practices are unique to each community and organization.

See below to read more about healing justice:

- [Kindred Southern Healing Justice Collective: What Is Healing Justice?](#)
- [Astraea Foundation: Healing Justice Framework](#)

5. What is intersectional movement building and cross-movement building?

The concept of intersectionality came from legal scholar Kimberlé Crenshaw, an African-American feminist, in 1989, who explained how different forms of power and systematic oppression interact on multiple and often simultaneous levels. Instead of separating out issues of race, gender, sexuality or class, intersectionality shows how many different struggles for justice are interconnected and compounded, and requires solidarity between movements.

Intersectional movement building work takes intersectionality beyond the realm of theory and applies it to grassroots organizing, alliance and coalition building, and policy change work. This means centering the voices of those experiencing overlapping and simultaneous forms of oppression in order to understand the depths of the inequalities and the relationships among them in any given context.

Intersectional cross-movement building makes connections between different movements. For example, organizers who understand and speak to the overlap between climate justice, racial justice, and gender equality, and then collaborate with each other to work towards the shared goal of a liberation and a healthy planet.

6. Can I apply as a sole organization or as a group of organizations?

Applicants can be singular organizations or a group of organizations that meet the eligibility requirements.

If applying as a group, resources should be distributed equitably (not necessarily equally) across organizations applying together. Groups should choose one organization to be the fund recipient, who can pay for any expenses associated with the project and re-grant to other organization(s).

7. Are there particular issue areas within social justice movements that organizations must be working on to apply?

All social justice organizations will be considered, regardless of specific issue areas – in other words, ACF will be open to applications from organizations focused on reproductive justice, economic justice, gender justice, immigrant justice, LGBTQ justice, racial justice, climate justice, disability justice, criminal justice, and any other issues across the social justice spectrum that affect women and girls of color. No matter the movement/issue area, all work should be led by, centered in the experiences of, and be for trans and cis women and girls of color and nonbinary people of color.

8. How do you define “women and girls of color-led?”

The Activist Collaboration & Care Fund defines women and girls of color-led as: trans women, cis women, and non-binary people who identify as Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC). Leadership should be majority (at least 50%) trans women, cis women, and non-binary people of color.

9. How do you define the Leadership of an Organization?

Leadership includes executive directors, management staff, and advisory committee members or governing boards.

10. What is the difference between a 501(c)3 organization and a fiscally sponsored organization?

A 501(c)(3) is an organization that does charitable work and is exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of Title 26 of the United States tax code. A fiscal sponsorship is when a nonprofit organization extends its tax-exempt status to an organization, individual, or group that is doing charitable work related to its mission.

11. Can I apply as an individual?

The Activist Collaboration & Care Fund does not provide grants to individuals.

12. My organization is international, am I able to apply for a grant?

Unfortunately, no. This fund does not support organizations outside of the U.S. and U.S. territories. Grant funds can only be used for work done within the U.S. and U.S. territories.

13. My organization is focused nationally, can I apply?

Yes. However, Ms. will prioritize funding organizations that are focused on state and local movements and campaigns. Local or state affiliates of national organizations that meet other eligibility requirements are welcome to apply.

14. I'm an existing grantee partner of Ms., can I apply?

Yes, current Ms. grantees can apply. We will prioritize funding for first-time grantee partners. Although not all projects will be funded, Ms. may share submitted proposals and/or proposal summaries with members of its network to help generate greater interest in and visibility of proposed projects (with applicant's permission).

15. Who will select grantees?

Ms. staff and its fund strategy and implementation partner will collaboratively select grantees.

16. Where can I apply?

Please use the link below to access the online application form and create a user account. Please retain your username and password. The Ms. Foundation for Women does not have access to your login information.

https://www.GrantRequest.com/SID_829?SA=SNA&FID=35145

To log back into the system once the application has been saved or submitted, please use this link.

https://www.grantrequest.com/SID_829?SA=AM

In order to view your account page, your internet browser must accept cookies. Please use Google Chrome to complete the application. For questions or assistance with the online application process please contact our Grants Management Team at grantsmanagement@ms.foundation.org.

The proposal process consists of:

1. Eligibility Quiz
2. Online Application Form
3. Written Responses to Open-ended Questions
4. Supporting Financial Documentation

17. What questions should be responded to in the written narrative?

Please respond to each of the following questions in one to two paragraphs per question. Once done, upload a PDF with your responses to Ms.' grants portal. If an alternative approach to responding to the RFP is requested, please reach out to grantsmanagement@ms.foundation.org. Ms. will make its best effort to offer accommodations for language and accessibility during the process.

- a. Briefly describe your organization and the work for which you are seeking support.
- b. Describe the environment (in your state or locality) in which you do your work. What forces are you pushing against? Where are you seeing opportunities to create change?

- c. How do you envision this work benefitting your organization, staff, partners, and/or community?
- d. In one to two paragraphs, please describe your key strategies and activities for the next 12 months.
- e. Do you plan to have partners in this work? If yes, what is your vision for a positive collaboration?
- f. Does the Ms. Foundation have your permission to share your proposal with Ms. staff that oversee other funds, as well as members of our network to help generate great interest in and visibility of your work? (Yes, No)
- g. Optional: If readily available, please share 1-2 links to documents, materials, and/or other highlights that give insight into the work your organization is engaged in.

18. What financial documents am I required to upload?

A budget, select pages from Form 990, and an audited financial statement. See below for specifics.

Most Recent Organization Budget: The budget must show total income and expenses for the fiscal year. NOTE: We accept existing organizational budgets; you are not required to use the Ms. budget template. If you do not have an existing budget that clearly delineates income and expenses, we strongly encourage you to use the [Ms. budget template](#).

Selected Pages from Form 990 (Page 1 and Schedule A): Please submit a copy of Page 1 and Schedule A from Form 990; you do not need to send the full document. If your organization is not legally required to file a Form 990, please submit the financials you share with your board in lieu of the 990. If you are unsure, please click [here](#) for additional information.

Audited Financial Statements: A complete copy of your organization or fiscal sponsor's most recent audited financial statements. If your organization is not legally required to get an audit, please submit the financials you share with your board in lieu of audited financials. If you are unsure, please click [here](#) for additional information.

19. Are interviews required and who can participate?

Interviews are required of finalists. We suggest no more than three people join the conversation and that those who will be most closely engaged in the work be part of the interview. The primary purpose of these conversations is relationship building. Ms. seeks to understand applicants' context, aspirations, and way of being and offers the same to partners about the Ms. Foundation. As needed, we will discuss clarifying questions regarding applicant's proposals and leave space for any questions for Ms. staff.

20. What reporting is required on grants awarded?

Upon completion of the grant, Ms. staff will schedule a final reporting meeting with your organization. The intention of this call is to share learning and understand how Ms. can further amplify its grantee partners' work.

21. Will more funding from the Activist Collaboration & Care Fund be available in the future?

Yes.

For organizations awarded grant funding through this cycle, emergency funding in the amount of \$2,000-\$3,000 per grantee may be made available depending on Ms.' fundraising efforts throughout 2022.

For organizations not awarded grant monies during this cycle, we currently anticipate opening up two small-grants cycles in Fall 2022 and Spring 2023, during which we distribute an additional \$100,000 to approximately 10 organizations per cycle. More funds may be available in the future.