



Ms. FOUNDATION
FOR WOMEN

Activist Collaboration & Care Fund Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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

Ms. has currently allocated \$1 million to be granted in the summer/fall of 2023. Ms. anticipates providing \$15,000 - \$25,000 grants to approximately 40 organizations during this funding round.

2. How long is the grant period?

One year.

3. What type of work would Ms. fund through ACF?

We will fund work that is focused on at least one of our four funding areas: 1) collaboration; 2) healing, rest, and restoration; 3) rapid response; and 4) digital safety and infrastructure. Examples of efforts that could be funded include, but **are not limited to:**

- Collaboration
 - Coaching for co-directorship and shared leadership models within organizations
 - Efforts to repair organizational relationships, such as through transformative justice and conflict resolution training
 - Support for collaborative infrastructure, such as networks of practitioners and capacity builders working across organizations
 - Retreats to deepen relationships and strategize across organizations
 - Collaborative campaigns across organizations
- Practices for healing, rest, and restoration 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
- Rapid response
 - Community care, mutual aid, and relief efforts in response to evolving political, health, and/or climate events
 - Legal services and support for protests, direct actions, and other movement-building strategies
 - Unexpected public education and event opportunities to support timely policy, organizing, or communications goals
 - Internal organizational emergencies, such as office vandalism, conflict mediation, or sudden loss of core funding
- Digital infrastructure and digital safety
 - Digital security audits, risk assessment, and threat modeling
 - Digital security trainings and technical support



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- Responding to data breaches and other digital attacks
- Software for digital security, including for phones, laptops, network access, and communications
- Efforts supporting community ownership of technology

4. What will not be funded?

- Individuals
- Organizations with a 501(c)(4) legal status
- Organizations or work focused outside the U.S. or U.S. territories
- Organizations with budgets above \$2M
- Ongoing general operating expenses (such as staff salaries or office rent)
- Organizations that do not have a gender analysis as part of their work (we define “gender analysis” as the ability to understand the relationship between gender and access resources, safety, and rights)
- Organizations whose leadership is not comprised by a majority (>50%) of trans women, cis women, and non-binary people who identify as Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC)

5. 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.

6. What do you mean by “gender analysis?”

We define “gender analysis” as a demonstrated understanding of how gender influences access to resources, safety, and rights, how gender intersects with organizations’ area(s) of focus (e.g., health, economic mobility, education, criminal justice reform), and what can be done to rectify those injustices.

7. What is digital safety and why is it important for movement organizations?

Organizing in the digital age involves widespread and often intuitive use of social networking, instantaneous communication tools, digital cameras, satellite navigation, and more. While these tools support organizing in many ways, they are also vulnerable to hijacking for movement surveillance, infiltration, and disruption.

Similar to the country’s safety procedures for physical encounters with the State,



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law enforcement, and corporate opponents, we must be proactive in building safe virtual spaces and secure digital infrastructure for our movements. We must be aware of the limitations of corporate technologies as well as keep up-to-date with rapidly evolving technologies and security risks. Simultaneously, it is also important to develop community-owned and community-driven technologies that protect our data and stories and reimagine technology beyond white supremacy, patriarchy, and extractive capitalism.

See below to read more about digital security:

- [Equality Labs Digital Security Resources](#)
- [Civil Liberties Defense Center Digital Security Program](#)
- [Social Movement Technologies](#)

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

The Activist Collaboration & Care Fund defines women and girls of color as: trans women, cis women, and non-binary people who identify as Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC). To be eligible for a grant through ACF, leadership should be majority (at least 50%) trans women, cis women, and non-binary people of color. Leadership includes executive directors, management staff, and advisory committee members or governing boards.

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. I’m an existing grantee partner of Ms., can I apply?

Yes, current Ms. grantees can apply. We will prioritize funding for first-time



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grantee partners, and anticipate that about 20-30% of funds will go to existing grantees. 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).

13. Can I apply as a sole organization? Is it required to apply as a group of organizations?

Applicants should be singular organizations that meet the eligibility requirements, even if applying for resourcing a multi-organization collaborative effort. 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). We strongly encourage equitable distribution of resources received across organizations intending to collaborate.

14. 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://us.grantrequest.com/application.aspx?sid=829&fid=35153>

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

<https://us.grantrequest.com/accountmanager.aspx?sid=829>

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 the following steps:

1. Create User Account
2. Take Eligibility Quiz
3. Complete and submit Application and Proposal (This includes the online application form, a brief written narrative, and supporting financial documentation.)

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



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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.

1. **Organization summary** - Please briefly describe the work of your organization (mission, history, population supported)
2. **Context** - Please briefly describe the political, historical, and/or socio-economic context in your locality, state or region that creates the injustices you are fighting against.
3. **Project description** - Please provide a brief description of the project, initiative or effort you are seeking funding for.
4. **Funding request** - Please provide a brief description of what the funds will be used for.
5. **Plan** - What major activities do you have planned for the next 12 months, and how do these contribute to your long-term vision?

Optional: 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)

16. 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.



17. 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 an applicant's proposal and leave space for responding to an applicant's questions, too.

18. Who will select grantees?

Ms. has hired a consulting team, Groundwork Partners, to manage the grantmaking process, review applications, and make initial recommendations about grantees. Final decisions about grants will be made by Ms. staff.

19. When and how will applicants be notified of grantmaking decisions?

All applicants will be notified around October 27th. Funds will be distributed 2-4 weeks after this date.

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.