

THE SOLUTIONS PROJECT

Fighter Fund

Request for Proposal for Rapid-Response (RFP-RR)

The Solutions Project – Overview

The Solutions Project unites science, business, culture and community to accelerate the transition towards 100% clean, renewable energy for all people and purposes. The Solutions Project pursues this mission with a three-pronged program that shifts the culture around clean energy: (1) increase public awareness about the places in which the political and public will have come together to make affordable and renewable energy available in their communities, (2) invest in organizations and leaders who are removing barriers to affordable clean energy and (3) initiate field convenings to encourage the culture of our movement to be more inclusive, collaborative, and celebratory.

Fighter Fund Grant Guidelines

Awards in 2018 range from \$500 to \$25,000. The Fighter Fund is a rapid response grantmaking program providing real-time support to pivotal frontline leaders accelerating the transition to 100% clean energy in the United States. Resources are designed to support the following activities: Place-based movement moments through organizing, direct action, advocacy, and lobbying activities; Communications that build public will and cultural power; and Coalition building that builds a stronger ecosystem of grassroots organizations. Ideal grantees are tax-exempt organizations, either 501(c)(3) or (c)(4), that are governed by the communities in which they serve, mobilize marginalized communities, have the capacity to leverage resources for additional funders, and are experimenting with innovative tactics to activate constituencies in advancing 100% clean energy for 100% of people.

The Fighter Fund is currently an open application reviewed on a rolling basis. All interested and eligible applicants are encouraged to apply and the Fighter Fund has the following interest areas:

1. State policy campaigns supporting 100% clean energy for 100% of the people
2. Fossil fuel infrastructure resistance
3. Indigenous organizing and led movements
4. Supporting transparent, cleaner, and democratically controlled rural electric cooperatives
5. Community-owned clean energy demonstration projects in need of seed capital

The typical duration of a grant from the Fighter Fund is six months. Due to the rapid response nature of requests, applications are subject to a 5-day review, barring any requests for additional information.

Proposal Instructions

All applications are accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis. Please apply through the online application: <http://www.thesolutionsproject.org/grants/>. If you are unable to complete a written application due to extenuating circumstances, Solutions Project is able to accommodate phone, voicemail, and video applications in either English and Spanish language. Please contact the program officer via email at rudi@thesolutionsproject.org to inquire about submission procedures due to extenuating circumstances. *(También aceptamos solicitudes para subvenciones en español por escrito, teléfono, mensaje de voz o grabación hecha en video. Favor contactar al jefe de programas a través de su correo electrónico rudi@thesolutionsproject.org para recibir instrucciones).*

Application Questions

Please review the application questions below before applying:

- Organizational and fiscal sponsor contact information
- Organizational demographic information (including executive and board leadership, staff and constituency)
- What is the plan to include local residents representing diverse communities into leadership roles within your organization?
- How did you learn about this grant?
- Amount Requested
- What is your organizational mission?
- What is your organization's geographic scope?
- What problem(s) are you addressing in this proposal?
- Describe your goals, activities, outcomes, and timeline for the grant period?
- While we know all success is shared, we are especially interested in amplifying stories that highlight individuals who give their 100% either within your organization or as part of your broader network (including, but not limited to members, constituents, board, staff, etc). Can you please tell us about someone who embodies 100% in their actions?

A completed application includes the following items attached as .pdf documents.

- Completed questions in online application
- Project-specific budget (if applicable)
- Current total organizational budget
- IRS Exempt Status Determination Letter (or from fiscal sponsor)
- Most recent IRS 990 form (or from fiscal sponsor)
- Current budget of your fiscal sponsor (if applicable)
- Any additional attachment that may aid in decision making (optional)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is the word limit?

- For text responses, there is technically no limit to questions. However, we encourage quality over quantity in your responses. We recommend a 300-word count per narrative question.

What amount should I request?

- Grant amounts range from \$500 to \$25,000 in 2018. This increase is a reflection of growing needs from groups on the ground to resource movement moments. On occasion, previous applicants have made requests to fund existing work or support budget gaps. Fighter Fund grants are designed to support genuine rapid response moments in need of new programmatic dollars. Please reflect your programmatic needs as accurately as possible in your amount requested and attached budgets.

What is the duration of the grant?

- Fighter Fund awards typically are awarded for the duration of a six-month grant cycle.

What does constituency mean?

- Constituency is meant to mean the communities you organize, work in and are most affected by your work, whether it be limited to a neighborhood, city, multi-county region or state.

Can I attach more than one attachment?

- No. Each attachment link only allows one attachment per question. Attachments are limited to an aggregate 25 MB limit.

When are grant reports due?

- Grant reports are due three weeks after the completion of the grant.

How do I submit a grant report?

- An email with instructions to complete the grant report online will be sent to you prior to its due date. We do encourage you to mark your calendar with its due date upon receipt of the award letter.

What if I cannot complete a written application due to extenuating circumstances?

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Contact

Applicants should direct their inquiries to Rudi Navarra, Program Officer at The Solutions Project, via email at rudi@thesolutionsproject.org. If you have additional questions, please visit our grants sections website page: <http://www.thesolutionsproject.org/grants/>.