



SPARK JUSTICE FUND RAPID RESPONSE GRANT APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS NOW THROUGH OCTOBER 20, 2020

The Spark Justice Fund (SJF) is a donor collaborative at Borealis Philanthropy that supports grassroots organizing groups to **end the use of money bail** in the criminal legal system, **transform pretrial justice**, and **build power** in communities most impacted by incarceration in the United States.

ABOUT THIS FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

This funding opportunity is geared towards helping grassroots organizing groups that work to transform pretrial justice and that have specific, urgent needs arising out of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in jails and communities. While the funding can be used both for strengthening organizational infrastructure and for substantive campaigns, successful applicants must be working to end cash bail, reduce jail populations, and promote alternative community-led visions of justice in their jurisdictions. Examples of such COVID-related needs could include working to:

- Secure the release of people from jails, including work to respond to arrests and jailing of people protesting police violence
- Develop alternative, community-led services and supports
- Deepen campaigns to end cash bail and advance other pretrial practices/policies aimed at decarceration
- Further campaigns to close—and divest from—jails and invest instead in communities most impacted by incarceration
- Provide mutual aid and healing justice supports
- Strengthen organizational infrastructure (such as using funds for purchasing technology, enhancing digital security, addressing pandemic-related staff needs, or other leadership/professional development and organizational development needs.)

This list is not exhaustive, and we will consider supporting any needs arising out of the current pandemic as long as they help groups advance their goals that align with the goals and vision of the Spark Justice Fund.

For additional questions about Spark Justice and this grant opportunity,
please email sparkjustice@borealisphilanthropy.org.



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA & PRIORITIES

Organizations must be independent 501(c)(3)s or fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3). Current Spark Justice grantees and those who have not yet received Spark Justice funding can apply. In addition, groups must:

- Work authentically with constituencies most impacted by incarceration. The Fund is particularly interested in supporting groups led by individuals most directly impacted by the criminal legal system.
- Have an explicit, demonstrated commitment to racial, economic, and gender justice that is reflected in the organization's leadership and staffing and in how it conducts its work.
- Demonstrate a clear power-building and leadership-development strategy that meaningfully engages directly impacted communities in defining problems, solutions, and actions.
- Engage in efforts to end cash bail that are connected to a broader decarceration strategy and to advancing a holistic vision of criminal justice transformation that centers community-led models of justice.

Priority consideration will be given to:

- Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC)-led organizations
- Organizations led by individuals who have been directly impacted by the criminal legal system.
- Groups who do not receive significant support from national foundations.
- Campaigns in jurisdictions with particularly timely opportunities for change.

HOW TO APPLY

The Spark Justice Fund uses an **online application system** (the hyperlink is: https://borealisphilanthropy.force.com/grants/FGM_Portal_CommunitySignin). We strongly recommend you use Google Chrome for best results. **If you require application materials in other accessible formats, please email sparkjustice@borealisphilanthropy.org.**

Please review the following instructions on how to log in. If you have technical questions about the online application process, please email grants@borealisphilanthropy.org.

1. Logging into the online grants portal:



For new users:

- If you are confident your organization has never applied for funding from any Borealis fund before, self-register for an account in our portal. Please click on "New User?" to complete the registration process and create your login credentials. Be sure to keep this login information for your organization's records. **TIP:** *This email address is the one we will use to communicate with you if we have questions, which sometimes require immediate response.*

For applicants who aren't sure whether they have an account:

- You may already have an account from your previous LOI and/or application . Not Sure? If you think that you or someone at your organization has already registered in the system, DO NOT create a new account. Please contact the grants team at grants@borealisphilanthropy.org to receive your username and password.

For existing users:

- If you have previously applied for a Borealis grant, please log in using the portal link: https://borealisphilanthropy.force.com/grants/FGM_Portal_CommunitySignin and enter your username and password. If you forgot your password, click "Can't access your account" to reset your password. **If your organization applied for a grant in the past and you do not have a username and password, please contact the grants team at grants@borealisphilanthropy.org.**

- 2. Accessing your application:** Once you are logged in to the application portal, you will be taken to the "Grantee Dashboard" section. At the top of the page, click the "Explore Grant Opportunities" tab. You will see a list of available open application opportunities. Click on the **Spark Justice Fund YR 3 Rapid Response** link to begin your application.
- 3. Complete and submit your application:** Unfinished applications can be accessed using the same link: https://borealisphilanthropy.force.com/grants/FGM_Portal_CommunitySignin
- 4. Complete or update your organization's profile** in the online portal by logging in and clicking "profile" in the top left corner of the profile. You can also enter the organization's banking information or select "pay by check" in the Profile section.
- 5. Instructions on how to use the portal:**
<https://sites.google.com/borealisphilanthropy.org/forgrantees/borealis-grantee-training-manual>.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

For additional questions about Spark Justice and this grant opportunity, please email sparkjustice@borealisphilanthropy.org.



Please be sure to include the following attachments with your request submission:

- Proposal narrative
- Current Year organization budget (any format that includes expenses and committed/projected income)
- Most recent audited financial statement for your organization, or if applicable, the most recent audited financial statement for your fiscal sponsor
- Fiscal sponsor agreement (if applicable)
- Fiscal sponsor's current year organization budget (if applicable)

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