



SPARK JUSTICE FUND COVID-RELATED RAPID RESPONSE PROPOSALS

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Spark Justice Fund?

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.

What are the objectives of the Fund?

The Fund works to:

- End money bail and transform pretrial justice in order to decarcerate, decriminalize poverty, and secure justice for low-income communities of color, including for women, LGBTQ people, people with disabilities, and other marginalized populations.
- Strengthen the capacity of grassroots organizing groups rooted in the communities most impacted by the criminal legal system to lead the movement for its transformation.
- Elevate the leadership of those most directly impacted by the criminal legal system.

Who are the foundations that support Spark Justice?

Current donors to the Spark Justice Fund include the Art for Justice Fund, Blue Meridian Partners on behalf of the Justice and Mobility Fund, Ford Foundation, Galaxy Gives, Kelson Foundation, Loud Hound Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, NoVo Foundation, Schusterman Family Foundation, and an anonymous donor.

How much funding can I request?

The SJF plans to distribute a total of \$500,000 during this grant cycle. Grants will be general operating support. We anticipate grant sizes will range between \$15,000-\$50,000, with most grant sizes in the \$20,000-25,000 range. Grant sizes will depend on how many requests we receive, so these are rough guides based on our current estimations.

Are there any other benefits to receiving Spark Justice funding?

In addition to financial support, Spark Justice provides grantees with ongoing capacity building opportunities, including regular learning webinars on key issues related to their work,

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



opportunities for peer sharing with other grantees, and weekly newsletters that compile field news, updates, resources, and funding opportunities.

What organizations are eligible to apply?

- Organizations must be independent 501(c)(3)s or fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3)
- Both 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.

What are your funding priorities?

We are looking to prioritize organizations that meet the following criteria:

- 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

Can I apply as an individual?

The Spark Justice Fund does not provide grants to individuals.

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My organization is international. Am I able to apply for a grant?

This grant 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.

When should I apply?

The application is available **now through Tuesday, October 20, 2020**. You are invited to submit a proposal online via the application portal by the October 20th application deadline. *Proposals will be reviewed and approved on a rolling basis until the full rapid response fund is expended.* As a result, applicants are encouraged to submit their proposals as soon as possible.

How can I apply?

Please read through the [call for proposals here](#). For detailed, step-by-step instructions on how to apply, please go to the [2020 Rapid Response Application Instructions](#). The instructions will walk you through both the materials you'll need, as well as the online grants applications process. Once you read through the instructions, if you still have questions, please email them to grants@borealisphilanthropy.org.

When will funding decisions be made?

We will review applications and make grant decisions on a **rolling basis** until all funds are expended. We will notify groups of award decisions within 2-4 weeks of submission.

We encourage eligible applicants to apply sooner than later. Given the rolling process and depending on how many requests we receive, please note that it is possible that all funds will be disseminated before October 20 and that groups submitting applications closer to the application closing date can't be considered. We will close the online portal as soon as that is the case.

How can I receive information about future funding opportunities and other Spark Justice news?

This is the final grantmaking opportunity for the Spark Justice Fund in 2020. To receive updates and announcements about SJF and Borealis' other funds, sign up for our mailing list at <http://bit.ly/borealisupdates>.

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