



GRANT APPLICATION POLICY 2018

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ABOUT SACRED FIRE FOUNDATION

The mission of Sacred Fire Foundation is to ensure the continuance of ancestral wisdom and expand awareness about why the indigenous worldview is crucial for all of us now, as well as for future generations. We envision a global society that prioritizes balance, community, and connection, and helps to sustain all life on earth.

PROTECTING THE SACRED GRANT MAKING PROGRAM

To further the mission of the Sacred Fire Foundation, our grant making program, *Protecting the Sacred*, provides modest grants and organizational support for Indigenous wisdom keepers and their communities worldwide to help them maintain their traditional ways and to realize their own visions for a sustainable future based in indigenous values. We fund projects that reflect, support, or restore spiritual and cultural practices based in ancestral wisdom.

GRANT FOCUS AREAS

Projects may fall into one or several of the following focus areas:

1- Awareness Building:

We support projects that document indigenous wisdom and worldviews that can then be shared with the rest of humankind. Indigenous ancestral wisdom might seem far removed from our lives, yet it is a treasure trove for all of humanity that allows us to learn from the experience accumulated through millennia by Indigenous Peoples in how to relate to each other and the natural world in a more balanced and respectful way.

2- Earth Stewardship:

Indigenous Peoples are at the front-line of environmental devastation as their sacred lands become targets for exploitation and economic gain. We support projects that protect our Earth and promote the values of reciprocity and respect that are at the heart of sustainable living.

3- Education:

We support projects that teach and inspire children and youth to learn from and participate in the traditional practices of their peoples: sing their songs, follow their ceremonial cycles, and learn about traditional knowledge and healing ways.

4- Food and Healing:

We support projects in Indigenous communities aimed at keeping traditional food and healing sources and practices alive, both for the sustenance of the people and to create awareness of how the earth continually supports us individually and collectively.

5- Language, Art and Culture:

We support projects that revitalize indigenous languages and arts to promote the richness of diversity so cultures can flourish.

6- Ritual and Ceremony:

We support rituals and ceremonies of Indigenous Peoples globally that strengthen the fabric of connection between humans, the ancestors, the sacred and the natural world.

7- Youth:

We support projects that help Indigenous youth understand and value their ancestral culture with dignity and strength, and to incorporate modernity in their lives in a balanced and effective way. Youth are the key link to receive the wisdom from their elders so their cultures can survive.

GRANT APPLICATION ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA

Awards will be made to individuals, groups and organizations whose initiatives are complementary to and further the purposes of Sacred Fire Foundation. All individuals or organizations should ideally have non-profit status or have a fiscal sponsor with a non-profit status. Organizations that are not a 501(c)(3) exempt organization may be considered but will receive an Internal Revenue Service form 1099 from Sacred Fire Foundation.

All requests require a full and complete grant application, and applicants may be asked to submit additional information.

In some instances, the foundation will require the grantee to match Sacred Fire Foundation grant funds with donations from other sources. In-kind donations may qualify in some instances as matched funds.

Grant Sizes

Grants are awarded in amounts up to \$5,000 US dollars, but grant size may vary depending on the scope of the project.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The Sacred Fire Foundation will consider the following criteria in making grant determinations.

- 1) If the organization and/or project is indigenous-led and has stemmed from the community it will benefit.
- 2) The extent to which the initiative and the Foundation's interests are compatible by supporting and/or restoring ancestral wisdom, indigenous perspectives, and/or cultural or traditional spiritual practices.
- 3) The specific issue or situation that the project addresses and the relevance of the proposed project to contribute to the issue or situation.
- 4) The primary and secondary benefits that would accrue as a result of the initiative, especially the extent of long-term benefits.
- 5) The extent of the community's volunteer involvement and contribution toward furthering the goals or program impact described in the application.
- 6) The extent to which the initiative encourages or enhances cooperation and relationship between and amongst groups.
- 7) The potential for the grant to be used to leverage additional funds from other funding sources for the same purposes, if required.
- 8) For requests that will produce a permanent program or project, evidence that the applicant organization plans to and is capable of financially sustaining the effort beyond the end of the award period.

For additional reference, please visit [our web page](#) to learn about our past grantees, types of projects funded and grant sizes.

Restrictions and Conditions

- 1) Awards will be made with the understanding that the Sacred Fire Foundation assumes no obligation or commitment to provide additional support to the applicant organization.
- 2) Awards will not be made that support political campaigns or attempts to influence legislature or any other governmental body.

- 3) Awards will be made without discrimination as to age, color, race, religion, sex, disability, veteran status, or national origin, and only to eligible recipients that do not unlawfully discriminate on these same criteria.
- 4) Awards will generally be made on a one-time basis in a 12-month period. The date used to determine the 12-month period will be the date of Sacred Fire Foundation's acceptance letter. Extensions may be requested and approved if circumstances are justified.
- 5) Availability of matching funds is not a condition of eligibility for proposal submissions. However, Sacred Fire Foundation may determine that a match will be required as a condition for certain awards. Normally, required matches are to be satisfied within 12 months of the date on the grant award letter.
- 6) Non-allowable expenses:
 - First class travel including: airfare, accommodation, car rentals, meal costs, etc., unless conditions require this for the success of the project
 - International travel costs unless unavoidable for the success of the project
 - Entertainment expenses for purposes other than those directly related to meeting program objectives as defined and agreed on in the proposal
 - Pre-award costs (i.e., project costs generated during the preparation of a proposal for the same project)
 - Endowment campaigns
 - Construction, purchase, or renovation of facilities, except for sacred and ceremonial buildings
 - Regular salaries of pre-award permanent staff
 - Discretionary or emergency/disaster requests
 - Scholarships and fellowships
 - Missionary projects
 - Deficit funding

GRANT APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

We have one grant cycle per year. Grant applications may be submitted from **January 1st until March 15th, 2018**. Applications are reviewed by our Grant Review Committee. Applicants will receive a response from us within 90 days.

Step One: Questions

Please answer the following questions regarding the initiative on behalf of which you are applying for a grant. If you are able to answer “yes” to these questions, you are welcome to send a full grant application (see below for instructions.)

- 1) Is your organization or project Indigenous-led?
- 2) Is your initiative clearly a match for Sacred Fire Foundation’s mission?
- 3) Is your initiative free of political agenda?

Step Two: Grant Application

Please prepare a complete Grant Application following the criteria suggested. Please provide the information listed below in the order given, if available.

- 1) Date of your letter
- 2) Full name & address of the organization/group applying, including website
- 3) Name of contact person, their title, email address and phone numbers. This person is who Sacred Fire Foundation will contact for information pertaining to this proposal
- 4) Brief history of the organization, including date founded, mission and vision
- 5) Name of the project or initiative
- 6) Indigenous or tribal affiliation of the group(s) that will benefit from the grant
- 7) Project location (name of communities served by the project)
- 8) Project or initiative duration
- 9) Project Focus Area. Please indicate which of the following areas your project falls under. It may be more than one area:
 - 1- Awareness Building
 - 2- Earth Stewardship
 - 3- Education
 - 4- Food and Healing
 - 5- Language, Art, and Culture
 - 6- Ritual and Ceremony
 - 7- Youth
- 10) U.S. dollar amount being requested from Sacred Fire Foundation
- 11) Total budget amount for the project or initiative in U.S. dollars
- 12) Total organizational budget amount in U.S. dollars
- 13) Tax status of organization, or, if applicable, the information and tax status of your fiscal sponsor
- 14) Indicate if there is a bank account under the organization’s name. If applicable, please indicate if you have a fiscal sponsor
- 15) Indicate whether you have previously applied for a grant from Sacred Fire Foundation. If “yes” indicate the date you applied, whether your application was accepted and what amount you received
- 16) Any other information regarding the organization or project that could be useful in evaluating your application. Please include supporting materials such as video, photos and testimonials
- 17) If possible, provide references of past/current funders, prizes received and/or partners of your organization

In addition, please provide the following information.

Narrative Content

A. Project Statement:

Briefly describe what the most pressing issues are that your community is facing in terms of continuance of your ancestral wisdom, and how does this project contribute to protect it and/ or preserve it. Share with us a description of the project you are requesting funds for and WHY these funds are needed.

Please try to include in your narrative an answer to the following questions:

- How will the community benefit by the project?
- How is the community volunteering and/or contributing to the project?
- Who are the project leaders, and how and why were they chosen?
- How will the project support, reflect, and/or restore spiritual or cultural practices based in ancestral wisdom?
- Why is this project important to you and why do you think it should be important to Sacred Fire Foundation?
- Are other partners involved in the project and/or will it endeavor to build partnerships with other groups/communities?

B. Activities and Strategies:

Please describe the specific activities you plan to undertake and the strategies you will use to accomplish them.

C. Timetable:

Please include a detailed timetable of your project that specifies when your initiative is taking place and when you plan on submitting your evaluation materials.

D. Project Purpose and Continuity:

Present a numbered list of your project goals and final outcomes that will be the result of the expenditure of the funds requested. A plan for generating additional funds for continued operations should be included here, if applicable. Please share if you have a plan for continuing the project after the Sacred Fire Foundation's funding ends.

E. Learnings and Reporting:

Please share how you will determine that the project was successful for your community, and how you plan to share those insights with the Sacred Fire Foundation (i.e. testimonials, data, etc.). The purpose of this question is so that at the end of your project you can share your learnings, and we can look back and see what you said will be the positive changes or what has improved.

Budget

Please include a detailed budget of your project specifying how the requested funds would be used. If available, please include other sources of income, the name(s) of funders, and support amount(s). If budgeted items are not self-explanatory, please elaborate on how you calculated those amounts.

Formatting Criteria and Notes

- Attach a copy of your 501(c)(3) tax determination letter (or its equivalent, if applying from a country other than the United States).
- If applicable, attach a letter from your fiscal sponsor and a copy of their tax determination status.
- Attach a list of key staff and current Board of Directors or governing body with their Indigenous or Tribal affiliations.

- Applications can be submitted in English or in Spanish.

Questions

Please feel free to email with any questions you have regarding the above requirements. We are happy to provide any additional clarification and answer any questions you might have mcaso@sacredfirefoundation.org.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

You can **submit your application online** at:

<https://goo.gl/forms/7tulZQo9llik9GTG2>

Only if you cannot submit your application online, you may email a full grant application, all supporting materials and additional documents to: mcaso@sacredfirefoundation.org