

## **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

### **Federal Application Support**

The Just Transition Fund is excited to re-launch a grantmaking opportunity to support coal communities applying for federal funding! With historic levels of funding now available through a range of federal agencies, we want to help ensure that coal communities can apply for these funds and advance economic transition efforts on the ground.

For example, last year the Economic Development Administration launched its Coal Communities Commitment, allocating \$300 million through the American Rescue Plan. And, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act allocated \$200 million per year for the Appalachian Regional Commission through 2026. Other federal agencies that support economic transition efforts include the Department of Agriculture, Department of Energy, Department of Interior, and Department of Labor. A guide to the broad range of relevant federal programs is available [here](#).

#### **Our Priorities**

We aim to help drive federal investments in coal communities by helping local organizations submit competitive federal applications for community-led transition projects that advance equitable and inclusive local economies. We prioritize support for work that is led by and serves low-income and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities most impacted by the transition. We look for projects that show significant potential to create local economic impact and can serve as models.

Specifically, grants will directly support federal applications focused on:

- **Community economic development projects** focused on promising sectors, including, but not limited to: clean energy, sustainable agriculture, reclamation, tourism, and the knowledge economy;
- **Workforce development projects** that train coal affected workers and community members for high-road, 21st century jobs in these sectors; and
- **Initiatives designed to improve broadband access, equity, and affordability** in order to promote economic and workforce development, such as wireless or fiber deployment projects, digital literacy programming, community outreach about the FCC's Affordable Connectivity program, and other innovative solutions. (**Please note:** If you need resources for a community broadband project, beyond federal funding, we may be able to help! We'll invite you to share more information in the application form linked to below.)

#### **Eligible Organizations and Activities**

Qualified 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations that are playing a leading role in a federal funding application may apply. Grants can be used for a variety of purposes to support the development of the federal application, including to:

- Engage expert technical resources for research, analysis, and/or grant-writing;
- Organize or deepen inclusive community partnerships;
- Conduct stakeholder engagement and support community planning; and
- Qualify as private matching funds.

Please note: coalitions of organizations that are developing a joint application for federal funds should also apply jointly to the JTF.

### **Grant Amounts**

We'll award up to \$25,000 per organization for eligible expenses. (This applies whether the organization applies individually or as part of a coalition.)

### **Geographic Focus**

We'll consider proposals from frontline coal communities in the following priority states: KY, VA, WV, NC, PA, OH, IL, IN, MO, MN, WY, AZ, CO, MT, NM, TX.

### **Application Process and Timeline**

We will accept applications on a rolling basis in 2022. Please submit a brief online application [here](#). Please see the appendix below to view the list of short answer questions included in the application.

We expect to be able to provide a funding decision within four to six weeks, depending upon the volume of applications we receive.

### **Questions?**

Contact Sara Sweeney at [ssweeney@justtransitionfund.org](mailto:ssweeney@justtransitionfund.org).

## **Appendix to Federal Program Application Support Request for Proposals**

### **Narrative Application Questions**

Please respond to the questions below; we welcome you to be as brief as possible and encourage the use of bullet points. (Suggested length: 1 page.) You will be prompted to upload your responses to these questions as a PDF document at the end of the application form.

1. Please provide a short summary of the project for which you seek federal funding. Briefly describe the coal-impacted community or communities this project will serve. Please indicate the agency that you are applying to and identify key project partners.
2. What will be the total (projected) cumulative impact on the local or regional economy of your project? How will you measure progress toward your desired outcomes?
3. How would JTF funds support the development of your federal program application? If applicable, please also indicate whether and for what purposes JTF funds would be allocated among project partners.
4. What is your timeline for submitting your federal application? Please include the program's application deadline(s), if any.
5. What legwork have you already done to develop the federal proposal, if relevant (e.g., Preliminary engineering? Site plan? Program design and budget?)