The Story of Stuff Project

Grassroots Grants Application

The Story of Stuff Project established the Grassroots Grants Program in 2017 to support small organizations and groups organizing against water privatization and plastic pollution in the United States. Since we launched, we have supported over 70 grassroots groups with nearly $200,000 in funding. We prioritize BIPOC-led and serving groups focused on water privatization, plastic pollution, and other environmental justice focus areas.

To apply, groups must be led by and serving black, indigenous, and communities of color AND meet one or more of the following requirements:

**Grants fit five basic categories:**

* Project is campaign-focused, centering grassroots organizing, public education, training and/or capacity building that develops skills, increases awareness, and/or builds alliances.
* Project centers community-driven, strategic use of non-violent direct action that demonstrate local resistance to destructive environmental activities i.e. privatization of public water sources.
* Project amplifies community voices in regional, national and international forums and provide access to decision makers, funds to go toward travel and/or other related costs.
* Project leverages field studies and original research to hold companies accountable for their on-the-ground activities.
* Project supports growth for emerging grassroots organization i.e. seed money.

**Applications are evaluated on the following criteria**:

1. Applicant’s capacity to carry out proposed activities;
2. Project need and urgency;
3. A well-defined strategy, including clear objectives and planned activities;
4. Scale and scope of community participation, including when applicable that the community where the project is centered and/or that will be impacted by the initiative be engaged in the decision-making process related to the activities;
5. Ecological/cultural significance of water/local environment;
6. Project honors and upholds diversity and equity of participants;
7. Activities would be significantly enhanced by a small grant: applicant’s annual budget (under $50,000 is prioritized), overall access to resources and previous funding from The Story of Stuff Project.

The grants program does not support individual, governmental, or exclusively academic projects. Grants generally do not exceed $5,000. At this time grants are only made to organizations in the United States.

This Word document is a resource for applicants to complete the answers to their questions offline before submitting them online at https://www.storyofstuff.org/grassroots-grants/. Only completed applications will be considered. If you need help with this application, please email info@storyofstuff.org with any questions. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis with grants made quarterly so please apply asap!

**SECTION I – CONTACT INFORMATION**

Name of the organization:

Contact person name and title:

Contact person’s email:

Telephone:

Website:

Address:

Name, title, and email of person submitting this form (if different than contact person):

**SECTION II – FINANCIAL SITUATION**

Type of group: (501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), fiscally sponsored, unregistered/no status:

Name of fiscal sponsor, if applicable:

Organizational or initiative budget last year:

Main sources of funds last year:

Organizational or initiative budget this year:

What other sources of funding will you draw on this year?

### SECTION III – HISTORY & PURPOSE OF ORGANIZATION

Organization Mission & History:

Projects and organizations that center BIPOC communities and leadership are prioritized. Please explain how your organization fulfills this requirement.

Please list any networks or coalitions your organization is associated with:

**SECTION IV – PROJECT PROPOSAL**

Project Title:

Amount Requested:

Please describe your proposed project and what you hope to accomplish. (200 words)

What activities (i.e. campaigns, organizing initiatives, educational opportunities, research etc.) will this funding support? Please be as specific as possible. (300 words)

What specific communities or geographic areas will benefit from this project? (200 words)

What is the timeline of the project?

Please provide a simple line-item budget for the project and please note any funding already secured. Attach a separate budget spreadsheet if available.:

Optional: Send photo(s) of your organization in action or other relevant photo.

Optional: Photo caption and/or credit information.

**SECTION V – Wrap Up**

How did you learn about the Grassroots Grants program?

**Do you authorize The Story of Stuff Project to list your organization and a brief description of your grant in English on our website or other publications produced by The Story of Stuff, and, if applicable, use the photo(s) provided for the same purpose if a grant is approved and distributed related to this application? Yes ☐ No ☐**

Please note: The Story of Stuff understands the need for some projects to remain confidential and therefore permission related to the above in no way impacts the application review process.

**I certify that the information given in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge**

**Name: Submission date:**