REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Helping Coal Communities Access Federal Funds

With historic levels of funding available across a range of federal agencies, we are excited to help drive equitable and inclusive federal investments in coal communities. Since community organizations often face barriers to accessing federal funds, our grants are designed to provide the capacity and support needed to be successful. **We offer two types of grants to help communities access federal funds, supporting economic transition work at two distinct phases:**

1. **Ready to apply for federal funding.** We’ll award grants of up to $25,000 to help organizations develop applications for specific programs, [Now accepting applications!](#)

2. **Planning early-stage community-led transition projects with a long-term goal of applying for federal funding.** We’ll invite a limited number of applications; [please contact us to learn more.](#)

In addition to our grants, we also offer direct one-on-one assistance to help organizations effectively navigate the federal funding application process at both of these phases. Please click [here](#) for more information about this separate, complementary form of support.

**Our Priorities**
We will support equitable and inclusive community-led transition efforts designed to secure federal investments in:

- **Community economic development projects** that advance economic growth in promising sectors, including 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, including programs that offer wrap-around support, engage local businesses, address worker skill mismatch, and create remote work opportunities.

- **Broadband access, equity, and affordability projects** that create economic development opportunities and reduce economic and social inequities, such as wireless or fiber deployment projects, digital literacy programming, and community outreach about the FCC’s Affordable Connectivity program.
  - **Please note:** If you need additional resources, we may be able to help! We’ll invite you to share more information in the application form.

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.
Eligible Activities

1. Ready to apply for federal funding. We will make grants of up to $25,000 for a variety of purposes to help organizations prepare to apply for a specific federal program, including:
   - Engaging expert technical resources for research, analysis, and/or grant-writing.
   - Organizing or deepening inclusive community partnerships.
   - Qualifying as private matching funds
     ○ Please note: If approved, we will provide a letter of commitment to accompany your federal application and issue the funds if/when the federal grant is approved.

2. Planning community-led transition projects. We will also make a limited number of grants for early-stage projects that have a long-term goal of leveraging federal funding and that demonstrate potential to achieve concrete economic outcomes. Activities may include:
   - Supporting community-driven, inclusive planning processes.
   - Connecting local leaders with specific expertise.
   - Building the capacity for transition efforts in key stages of development.

Eligible Organizations

Qualified 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations may apply. Organizations that are applying jointly for federal funds should also apply jointly to the JTF.

We will prioritize community-based organizations that are deeply-rooted in coal-affected areas and have a demonstrated ability to partner with a range of transition stakeholders.

We may also support a limited number of regional or national resource organizations that provide specific expertise to coal community organizations and have a strong track record of community partnership. These organizations should submit jointly with a local partner.

Geographic Focus

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

Process and Timeline

1. Ready to apply for federal funding.
   - Submit a brief application to the JTF here! (See the Appendix below to view the questions included in the application.)
   - We are accepting applications on a rolling basis and will provide a response within approximately four to six weeks.

2. Planning community-led transition projects. To determine a potential fit, please contact Max Shipman at mshipman@justtransitionfund.org, including a brief summary of your organization, proposed project, and the coal-impacted community served.

Questions? Contact Max Shipman at mshipman@justtransitionfund.org.
APPENDIX: APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Narrative Questions
Please prepare a brief narrative response to the questions below; we encourage the use of bullet points (suggested length: one page). You will be prompted to upload this narrative 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 application deadline(s) for the program(s) that you are applying to.

5. **What legwork have you already done to develop the federal application,** if relevant (e.g., Preliminary engineering? Site plan? Program design and budget?)

Estimated Impact Data
Please also be prepared to provide the following information about your project’s estimated impact (where applicable). You will be prompted to enter this data as you complete the online form.

Estimated Impact of Project
1. Living-wage jobs created and retained
2. Industry sector(s) for jobs
3. Entrepreneurs supported
4. Businesses created
5. Workforce training programs:
   a. Number of participants
   b. Target population
   c. Program completion rate
   d. Job retention (months tracked)
6. Public and private sector funding leveraged (amounts and sources)

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