

Ocean Justice Community Grants (OJCG) Application 2022

A healthier ocean protected by a more just world

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14TH 11:59 PM EDT

OFFICE HOURS: Every Wednesday starting from August 10th - October 12th, 3-4 pm EDT

Open Call for Grants:

Ocean Conservancy is excited to present the first round of the Ocean Justice Community Grants! At Ocean Conservancy, our advocacy for the global ocean is predicated on our commitment to ocean justice – which we define as the fair and equitable distribution of both the benefits of the ocean’s bounty and the burdens for its complex care.

Persistent global inequalities – which manifest as unequal ocean access, benefits, and burdens – are an inherent threat to our success, and to the wellbeing of the ocean. Such inequalities accelerate ocean harms; fragment people’s relationships to the ocean; limit innovation in solving ocean problems; and obstruct our ability to effectively advocate for the most impactful ocean solutions.

Because of the myriad of ways in which global ocean inequalities manifest, our work as an ocean advocacy organization must be thoughtful, agile, intentional, and always oriented toward the polestar of a healthier ocean, protected by a more just world. The Ocean Justice team is spearheading efforts to identify marginalized communities who want to tell their stories of ocean injustice and develop their own solutions toward a more equitable ocean. These grants are one way that we are committing to build support for broad climate action and empower locally-led ocean justice efforts.

Budget:

- Ocean Justice Community Grants (OJCG) are offering a one-time grant of up to \$20,000 U.S. dollars.

Eligibility:

- All applicants must be able to show proof of 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status or have a fiscal sponsor actively registered in their state to do business.
- Provide IRS Exemption Determination Letter or that of your fiscal sponsor.
- Projects must be located in the United States or within the U.S. territories.

Timeline:

- OJCG Cycle 1 Opens: **August 8th, 2022**
- Office hours for questions on the application will be held weekly until the deadline
 - Every Wednesday starting from August 10th - October 12th, 3-4 pm EDT
 - [<https://oceanconservancy.zoom.us/j/92353181026?pwd=SHlyQUsyTVI4Ly85dFBQVWxiYjY6QT09>]
- OJCG Cycle 1 Closes: **Friday, October 14th, 2022** at 11:59 PM EDT

Overview:

Our ocean justice grants will advance our ocean justice agenda in five key ways:

- 1. Strengthening Coastal Communities.**
Goal: Addresses inequities in coastal resilience, coastal & ocean access, community resilience to sea level rise, and community resilience.
- 2. Promoting Sustainable Fishing & Traditional Indigenous Practices.**
Goal: Supports globally marginalized communities in preserving or promoting sustainable practices for subsistence, artisanal, and traditional ocean activities such as fishing.
- 3. Protecting Communities' Connections to the Ocean.**
Goal: Protects, elevates, or strengthens the historical and cultural connections that globally marginalized communities hold to the ocean.
- 4. Advancing Ocean Innovations.**
Goal: Disseminate innovative, effective potential ocean solutions that originate in globally marginalized communities while supporting the originators and innovators.
- 5. Developing New Ocean Leaders.**
Goal: Creates or promotes opportunities for ocean education & professional training to aspiring ocean leaders who are members of globally marginalized communities.

Characteristics of projects we seek to support:

- Demonstrates and exemplifies any of the 5 goals listed above.
- Culturally or Ecologically Significant: Projects should take place in regions or on specific projects of either unique cultural or ecological significance.
- Community Support: Projects must be able to demonstrate an existing body of community support from impacted communities, and/or identify at least two local or community-based champions for this work (This criterion could be fulfilled, for example, by having a board of directors or project team in which more than 50% of individuals are members of a globally marginalized community).
- Demonstrable Impact: Projects must demonstrate that this funding will have a measurable impact, with a definitive product to show accomplishment or meaningful progress within a 12-month time frame.

Qualification Questions:

- Is your organization a 501(c)(3)?
 - Will you be able to provide an IRS tax determination letter as proof?
 - If no, do you have a fiscal sponsor who is a 501(c)(3)?
 - Will you be able to provide a copy of their IRS tax determination letter?

Applicant Demographic Questions:

- Contact name and email
- Name of organization and website, if available
- What is your organization's mission? (100 words)
- Where is your organization located? Where is your project taking place?
- What was your organizational budget last year (2021)?
- Choose your executive team's / leadership's race or ethnicity (ies). Choose all that apply:
 - Indigenous Peoples of the Americas (i.e. American Indian, Native American, Alaska Native, First Nations, Amerindian or Indígena)
 - Indigenous Peoples of Oceania (i.e. Kānaka Maoli/Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Aboriginal Australian and Torres Strait Islander peoples)
 - Indigenous Peoples of Africa, South of the Sahara (e.g. Khoi San, Twa, Baka, Maasai, Tigre)
 - Indigenous Peoples of Europe, Middle East, North Africa, or West Asia (e.g. Sámi, Bedouin, Berber, Chukchi-Kamchatkan peoples)
 - Indigenous Peoples of East or South Asia (e.g. Adivasi, Orang Asli, Negrito, Ainu)
 - Afro-Descendant, African-American, Black American, Afro-Latino, Afro-Caribbean, AADOS (African-American Descendant of Slavery), or other African diasporic identity in the Americas
 - Latino/a/e/x, Hispanic, or other Latinidad or Latin diasporic identity in the Americas (e.g. Chicano/a/x, Boricua, Tejano)
 - Multigenerationally Mixed Race, Multi-racial, or Multi-ethnic (e.g. Creole, Métis, Afro-Métis, Indo-Caribbean, Aframerindian, Coloured (South Africa), some Afro-Native or Afro-Indigenous, Triracial, Pardo/a, or Melungeon)
 - Asian American, Desi, Indo-Caribbean, or other Asian diasporic identity in the Americas
 - American of Middle Eastern Ancestry (AMEA), West Asian American, American of North African ancestry, or other related diasporic identity in the Americas
 - White/White American, Euro-American, Anglo-American, Caucasian American, Blanco, or other European diasporic identity in the Americas
 - Mixed Race, Biracial, or Bicultural (e.g. Hapa, Blasian or Afro-Asian, some Afro-Native or Afro-Indigenous, etc.)
 - African (South of Sahara) or Black African
 - East Asian, Southeast Asian, South Asian, or Pacific Islander
 - Middle Eastern, North African, or West Asian
 - Western European, Eastern European, or Southern European/Mediterranean
 - My racial or ethnic identity is not represented here. It is:
 - Unsure or Unknown
 - I do not know
 - Prefer not to say

We are viewing environmental injustice through the intersectional lens of the most marginalized communities. We acknowledge that race is the most prominent indicator of environmental injustice and racism; therefore, environmental justice should be viewed through the perspective of the most marginalized communities. The burdens of this impact disproportionately affects women, low-income communities, and LGBTQIA+ people, furthermore, individuals who encompass more than one of these identities are even more disproportionately burdened. We encourage these groups with these characteristics to apply (this is not an exhaustive list of all marginalized identities):
[Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Cumulative Environmental Health Impacts in California: Evidence From a Statewide Environmental Justice Screening Tool \(CalEnviroScreen 1.1\)](#)

- Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) led and serving
 - “We define a BIPOC led and serving organization as one whose CEO or ED is BIPOC, staff is 50% or greater BIPOC; board of directors is 50% or greater BIPOC; and whose mission statement and charitable programs aim to predominantly serve BIPOC communities or populations.” ([People of Color Nonprofit Leaders Symposium: Philanthropy as Social Capital - Together SC](#))
 - [World Directory of Minorities and Indigenous Peoples](#)
- LGBTQIA+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersexed, Asexual +) people
 - ([How Environmental and Climate Injustice Affects the LGBTQI+ Community - Center for American Progress](#))
- Women led or owned

- **What marginalized identities best describes your organization centers:**
 - **Example: “We are a Lantinx-led community organization that fights for environmental justice.”**
 - Girls and women
 - National, ethnic, and linguistic minorities
 - People with disabilities
 - migrants/ refugees/ asylum seekers
 - Rural
 - LGBTQIA+
 - other

Application Questions

Prelude: The following questions are to help us get to know your group better. We are focused on the content of your project, please answer all questions to the best of your ability. We are collecting this data in confidence, for our use only and will not share with any second party. You will have the opportunity to upload any relevant and recent work at the end of the application.

- **Please select up to TWO categories you feel is most appropriate for your project application:**
 - **Strengthening Coastal Communities.**
Goal: Addresses inequities in coastal resilience, coastal & ocean access, community resilience to sea level rise, and community resilience.

 - **Promoting Sustainable Fishing & Traditional Indigenous Practices.**
Goal: Supports globally marginalized communities in preserving or promoting sustainable practices for subsistence, artisanal, and traditional ocean activities such as fishing.

 - **Protecting Communities' Connections to the Ocean.**
Goal: Protects, elevates, or strengthens the historical and cultural connections that globally marginalized communities hold to the ocean.

 - **Advancing Ocean Innovations.**
Goal: Disseminates innovative, effective potential ocean solutions that originate in globally marginalized communities while supporting the originators and innovators.

 - **Developing New Ocean Leaders.**
Goal: Creates or promotes opportunities for ocean education & professional training to aspiring ocean leaders who are members of globally marginalized communities.

Tell Us About Your Project:

- Do you have an ongoing project that you would like to continue? If yes, please give the title of the project, describe the project, and where you are within the project? Please remember to upload any relevant materials at the end of the application. Word limit: 350 words.
- Please give the title and description of the project that you would like to have funded. Word limit: 350 words.
- What problem are you solving with your project? How do you intend to solve it? Who would benefit from your success? Word limit: 400 words.
- Why do you think this problem exists? Word limit: 300 words.
- What resources would you need to solve/change/impact this problem? 300 words.
- What resources do you already have to solve/change/impact this problem? Word limit 300 words.
- Outline how the budget would be spent. Please note, if selected, additional questions about the budget will be forthcoming. Word limit: 300 words.
- What other issues might arise that would keep your project from being successful? Word limit: 300 words.
- Please give an approximate timeline of the project. Word limit: 300 words.
- Who will benefit from your success? Word limit: 200 words.
- If you have any relevant materials, please upload them.
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Need clarification or support? Please contact us:

EMAIL: OJCG@oceanconservancy.org

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