



Climate Equity Fund

Tier 2 Community Reach Application Preview

Instructions: Please note that this downloadable text document version is for application preparation purposes only. You will need to copy and paste your responses into the actual [Community Reach Application platform for your official submission](#) via the Boulder County website. The portal will close at 5pm on August 31, 2026.

Community Reach Applicant Eligibility Screening Questions

The guiding questions below, designed based on the eligibility criteria, can help a group decide if the CEF is a good match for their project. If you answer “no” to any of these questions, please reach out to climateequityfund@jsi.org to discuss your eligibility before applying.

1. Is the lead applicant’s official address within Boulder County?
2. Will all or most of the project take place in and provide benefit to Boulder County?
3. Does the project take meaningful action on climate change? Specifically, does the project reduce climate pollution (greenhouse gas emissions) or build community resilience to a changing climate?
4. Will the project serve frontline and/or disproportionately impacted (DI) communities, as defined by Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment?
 - The State of Colorado defines DI communities to include: low-income communities, communities of color, housing cost-burdened communities, linguistically isolated communities, communities with environmental and socioeconomic impacts, Tribal lands, mobile home communities, and historically marginalized communities ([Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment](#)).
5. Is the project designed collaboratively with the community it aims to serve?
6. Is the community meaningfully involved in implementation and decision-making throughout the course of the project?
7. Is the lead applicant a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit or a fiscally sponsored organization?

Community Reach Application Questions

Section 1. Applicant Information (unscored)

- [Short text] **Project Title**
- [Short text] **Organization Name**
- [Short text] **Primary Contact**
 - [Short text] **Name**
 - [Short text] **Role**
 - [Short text] **Phone Number**
 - [Short text] **Email Address**
- [Short text] **Organization/Group Mailing Address:** Street address, city, state, ZIP code
- [Checkbox] **Entity type:** (check all that apply)
 - Nonprofit 501(c)(3)
 - Fiscally-sponsored organization
 - If yes, fiscal sponsor organization:
- [Short text] **Organization/group annual operating budget for past 2 years**
 - 2024
 - 2025
- [Attachment] **Required Attachment:** Please provide documentation of your organizational status. If you are a nonprofit, please provide documentation that shows your organization is either a 501(c)(3) non-profit as designated by the Internal Revenue Service OR documentation that shows that the non-profit organization is recognized by the state, territory, commonwealth, or tribe in which it is located. Please include your fiscal sponsorship agreement if relevant.

The accepted file types are .png, .gif, .jpg, .jpeg, .doc, .xls, .docx, .xlsx, .pdf, and .txt.

Section 2. Organizational Background, Project Team, and Partnerships (20 points max)

[Narrative Text] **Please describe your organization and share how it aligns with the purpose of the Climate Equity Fund.**

The purpose of the CEF is to support frontline communities, and others most impacted by the climate crisis, by enabling grassroots leaders to design and implement community-led climate action initiatives.

In 400 words or less, your response should include:

- Your organization’s mission/vision
- How long your organization has been doing work in Boulder County
- Your organization’s history and relationship to and with Disproportionately Impacted (DI)/Frontline communities
 - Definition: The State of Colorado defines DI communities to include: low-income communities, communities of color, housing cost-burdened communities, linguistically isolated communities, communities with environmental and socioeconomic impacts, Tribal lands, mobile home communities, and historically marginalized communities ([Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment](#))
- Why your organization is the best fit to be the lead applicant for this proposal

[Narrative Text] **Please describe your organization’s capability to implement this proposed project.**

In 400 words or less, your response should include:

- Brief description(s) of 2-3 past project examples that demonstrate your organization’s capacity and capability to implement this proposed project
- Short bios and project role descriptions for 2-3 key individuals who would be implementing this project from the lead applicant

[Short text] **While not a requirement, we strongly encourage Community Reach applicants to have partners for their CEF proposal. Please list your project partners, if applicable.**

[Attachment] **Required Attachment(s):** Letter(s) of Commitment (LOC): For each partner, please upload a [Letter of Commitment](#) (link downloads a template). The LOC should include:

- Partner organization name
- Main point of contact, with email and/or phone number
- A description of any current or previous collaborations between the lead applicant and the partner
- The agreed upon scope of work or project role(s) for the proposed project
- A breakdown of how any awarded grant funding will be split up between the lead applicant and partner applicant

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Section 3. Project Description and Centering Community (20 points max)

[Checkbox] **What is the primary focus of your proposed project?** Pick the area that best matches your project.

- Land, Air, Water, and Food Systems
- Mobility, Infrastructure, and the Built Environment
- Mutual Aid, Basic Needs, and Climate Resilience
- Workforce and Economic Justice
- Zero-Waste and Low-Carbon Living
- Other (please explain)

[Narrative text] **Please describe the need or problem you are seeking to address through this proposed project.**

In 400 words or less, your response should include:

- The specific climate justice problem or inequity (using data as necessary)
- Evidence that your community supports this project, including explicitly outlining how the community was involved in the development of this proposed project. If applicable, include any community concerns and plans to address those concerns
- How your project relates to climate adaptation, mitigation, or resilience

[Attachment] **Optional Attachment:** Provide concrete evidence of community support for this proposed project (e.g., petition of community member signatures, survey results, focus group summary, community meeting minutes), including what % of the intended community of benefit has given input/support.

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[Narrative text] **Please describe the project you are proposing and share how it aligns with the purpose of the CEF.**

The purpose of the CEF is to support frontline communities, and others most impacted by the climate crisis, by enabling grassroots leaders to design and implement community-led climate action initiatives.

In 400 words or less, your response should include:

- 2-3 main project objectives (e.g., “increase traditional ecological knowledge related to watershed restoration”).
- The community strengths and cultural knowledge this project utilizes.
- How community members will be involved in project implementation and decision-making.

Section 4. Project Location and Community Benefit (15 points max)

[Checkbox] **What geographic area(s) are served by this project?** (select all that apply)

- City of Boulder
- Town of Erie
- Town of Jamestown
- City of Lafayette
- City of Longmont
- City of Louisville
- Town of Lyons
- Town of Nederland
- Town of Superior
- Town of Ward
- Unincorporated Towns & Communities
 - Allenspark
 - Coal Creek Canyon
 - Eldora
 - Eldorado Springs
 - Gold Hill
 - Gunbarrel
 - Hygiene
 - Niwot
- Other (please explain)

[Checkbox] **Which DI community(ies) does your project benefit?** (source: [Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment](#)) (select all that apply)

- low-income communities
- communities of color
- housing cost-burdened communities
- linguistically isolated communities
- communities with environmental and socioeconomic impacts
- Tribal lands
- mobile home communities
- historically marginalized communities

[Narrative text] **Please describe the intended population who will benefit from this project and project geographic area.**

In 200 words or less, your response should include how the population that your project will serve meets the definition of a disproportionately impacted community.

Section 5. Project Activities and Timeline (15 points max)

[Attachment] **Required Attachment:** Please fill out [the linked template](#) with your Timeline and Activities plan for your project. Your project should span from January to December

2027. *The required template includes:*

- Key Activities
- Timeline (start and end dates)
- Partner roles
- Expected outputs
- Notes for additional considerations like seasonality

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Section 6. Measuring Success and Learning (15 points max)

[Narrative text] **Please describe how you define “success” for each of the 2-3 objectives you outlined in section 3, and your plan for measuring that success.**

In 400 words or less, your response should include:

- Success criteria for all 2–3 objectives and specific quantitative or qualitative measurement methods.
- The plan for sharing progress, learnings, and/or results with your community.
- The plan or potential for long-term sustainability or scalability of your project.

Section 7. Budget (15 points max)

[Short text] **Requested funding amount.** Project period is January 2027 - December 2027.

[Short text] **Budget Guidance:** Our goal is to ensure that grant recipients are able to manage their award. In most cases, budgets for Community Reach grants must meet one of the following requirements. Please select which requirement your budget meets.

- The budget for a proposed project is less than 30% of the lead applicant's annual operating budget from the previous fiscal year
- Applicant is fiscally-sponsored
- None of the above

If ‘none of the above’ a new question appears. Please use this space to provide more context on your requested funding amount and whether your group has the capacity to manage the requested funds.

[Attachment] **Required Attachment:** A [budget spreadsheet](#) covering project expenses, and a narrative description that explains how funds will be used.

- Costs should be allowable as outlined in the [Allowable Use of Funds Guidelines](#).
- Cost Categories include:
 - Personnel and Fringe Benefits

- Contractual (subcontracts and consultants)
- Equipment, Materials and Supplies
- Travel
- Other Direct Costs (e.g., outreach/education, incentives, training);
- Indirect costs (capped at 15%)

Community Reach Optional Post-Application Survey

This survey is not scored and will not influence grant selection outcomes. Feedback from this survey will be used to improve the Climate Equity Fund for future years.

1. If selected for this grant, what capacity-building support will you need in the future (related to **organizational capacity** such as strategic planning, leadership/governance, staff development/HR, financial management, communications/marketing, fundraising/development, technology/infrastructure, or monitoring/evaluation)?
2. If selected for this grant, what technical assistance will you need in the future (related to **environment/climate action technical skills** like data & analysis, energy and infrastructure, agriculture/land use/ecosystem restoration, air/land/water measurement, etc.)?
3. How manageable was the effort involved in completing the application?
 - a. Very difficult
 - b. Somewhat difficult
 - c. Somewhat easy
 - d. Very easy
4. Do you have any feedback on this application process? How did this compare to other applications?