Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)  
2022 Fall Grantmaking Cycle

Who is Tides?

Tides is a philanthropic partner and nonprofit accelerator dedicated to building a world of shared prosperity and social justice. Our mission is to accelerate the pace of social change, working with innovative partners to solve society’s toughest problems. We work at the nexus of funders, change makers, and policy, bringing together a larger and diverse coalition of mission-aligned actors to amplify our power to scale positive impact.

Tides aims to strengthen the power of groups who face systemic barriers to resources and opportunities – especially BIPOC leaders, their organizations, and communities. We are committed to building capacity and growing resources for those who face barriers to power in order to influence a more equitable social change sector.

What is the WE LEAD (Women’s Environmental Leadership) Fund?

WE LEAD is a Tides Foundation grantmaking initiative. Launched in 2020, the Fund has an explicit focus on addressing historic inequities by directing resources to Black, Indigenous, women of color (BIWOC) leaders and BIWOC-led climate justice organizations.

WE LEAD seeks to invest in climate justice work that lifts up solutions to address the root causes of climate change and simultaneously seeks to address related and intersectional social, racial, gender, economic, and environmental injustices.

What are the priorities for the 2022 Fall Grantmaking Cycle?

WE LEAD would like to support climate justice organizations that have the following characteristics:

- **Organizations led by 51% or more Black, Indigenous, women of color.**
- **Organizations whose mission or values are grounded in environmental justice principles.** These organizations are rooted in, accountable to, and representative of communities of color, low-income communities, and tribal and Indigenous groups who are most directly impacted by the issues being addressed.
• Organizations or programs that center their strategy on addressing the root causes and impacts of climate change and solutions-based approaches to systemic change, including but not limited to:
  ○ Shaping and influencing climate and environmental policy decisions at the local, state, and/or regional level
  ○ Equitable access to community-based clean, renewable energy solutions
  ○ Climate mitigation and adaptation efforts
  ○ Direct action, community engagement, civic participation, and movement building
  ○ The abatement of pollution and toxic emissions from the fossil fuel industry to improve the health and well-being of fenceline communities
  ○ Equitable access to clean air, water, and land for community-based climate solutions

While climate justice should be a central part of the applicant's work, we are especially focused on supporting efforts that intersect with gender, racial, and economic justice, and equitable health outcomes.

Priority consideration will be given to:

• BIWOC-led organizations [if organizations/programs are fiscally sponsored we are only interested in the leadership demographics of the organization/program seeking support, not the fiscal agency]
• Grassroots and frontline organizations with climate/environmental program budgets under or close to $1 million
• Organizations with a demonstrated commitment to building local power and leadership to influence the decisions that affect the impact of climate change on their communities
• Organizations working in the following regions: Appalachia, Gulf South, Midwest, Southeast, and Southwest
• Organizations who do not currently have an open grant with WE LEAD

What will WE LEAD not fund?

• Work or organizations outside of the United States
• Projects inconsistent with a legitimate charitable purpose and applicable law, including any political campaign intervention or impermissible private benefit
• Projects inconsistent with Tides vision, mission, and approach, our organizational values, and WE LEAD’s funding priorities

What is the grant size and overall funding available?

WE LEAD will grant a total of $2 million. We anticipate grants will fall in the range of $25k-$100k. Up to 30% of grants will be two-year commitments paid in one installment or an annual installment.

How will WE LEAD make grantmaking funding decisions?

The Independent Advisory Committee will make decisions based on the criteria and priorities outlined in the RFP. Our review process is aligned with trust-based philanthropic practices that ensure transparency and responsiveness.
How do you apply?

In an effort to streamline our grantmaking processes and make them less burdensome for grant seekers, proposals will be submitted through JustFund, an innovative grants platform that utilizes a common proposal model.

When is the proposal deadline?

Proposals are due by Thursday, September 29, 2022, at 5 pm (PST).

Will there be an informational webinar?

Yes. Please join WE LEAD and JustFund staff on Tuesday, September 13th at 10am(PT)/1pm(ET) to review the RFP and discuss the application process. To register, click here.

If I have any additional questions, who should I contact?

If you have any questions about WE LEAD or the 2022 Fall RFP, please contact us at welead@tides.org. And If you need assistance with submitting your proposal, please contact info@justfund.us

To learn more about WE LEAD and our current RFP, visit our website.