



# *Keepers of the Earth*

## FUND

A grant designed specifically to provide funding to locally-initiated development projects in Indigenous communities around the world, allowing you to address your specific challenges in ways that best suit your people, culture, and unique set of assets.

First Peoples Worldwide, 857 Leeland Road, Fredericksburg, VA 22405  
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APPLICATION FORM

## KEEPERS OF THE EARTH FUND

# Guidelines for Grant Applicants

Welcome to the Keepers of the Earth (KOE) Fund Guidelines and Grant Application. First Peoples Worldwide (First Peoples) awards KOE grants to projects that empower Indigenous communities. This encompasses a wide range of projects, and we try not to place too many restrictions on the type of project we will fund. *To be eligible for a KOE grant, all applicants must:*

- ◆ Be Indigenous-led or represent an Indigenous-led project
- ◆ Be a grassroots/local organization or group
- ◆ Have an organizational bank account or access to a fiscal sponsor

Because of our grantmaking mission and limited grant funds, *we do not fund:*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| ◆ Projects that do not originate from or are not led by an Indigenous community   | ◆ Conference registration fees                               |
| ◆ Event fundraising, fundraising campaigns, costs associated with the soliciting of endowment funds, or deficit funding | ◆ Missionary projects  |
| ◆ Travel to the United States   | ◆ Fees associated with lawsuit proceedings or representation |
| ◆ Electoral campaign activities   | ◆ Scholarships or school application fees                    |
| ◆ Disaster relief   | ◆ Documentaries and/or filmmaking                            |
| ◆ Work being done by an individual  | ◆ Vocational education or training                           |

The KOE Fund was created to support Indigenous grassroots development and is often the first funding source for emerging Indigenous organizations and projects. We consider all applications on a case-by-case basis but prioritize small organizations with annual budgets less than US\$150,000. If your organization's annual budget is more than US\$150,000, please contact us to discuss your project.

Grant amounts for first-time applicants range from US\$500 to US\$5,000. Upon successful completion of your initial grant, you may apply for a second grant of up to US\$10,000. Because our grantmaking is geared toward Indigenous start-up groups' projects, your second grant application is more likely to be funded if you can demonstrate that you are pursuing other sources of funding.

We will consider funding an organization a maximum of three times. We will only fund your organization a third time if you have secured additional sources of funding other than from First Peoples.

At First Peoples, we don't see ourselves as gatekeepers of funding, but as partners with our communities. We have crafted our grantmaking process to be an equal and reciprocal dialogue with our grantees. Our grant decisions are based on whether proposed projects share our values, goals, and philosophy in supporting Indigenous Peoples.

If your project is selected for funding, your organization will be invited to participate in our Grantee Mentorship Program, which aims to strengthen the global network of grassroots Indigenous organizations working to address similar challenges in their communities.

## PROJECT CRITERIA

Here are the basic questions we ask ourselves when considering a grant application:

### *Is the project community initiated?*

It is important for Indigenous communities to be in control of their own development and, therefore, their own destinies. First Peoples Worldwide strongly prefers to fund development projects that are imagined and implemented by communities. There are exceptions where communities apply for grants through outside organizations, and in these instances we expect to see that the community itself has initiated the project, and that an existing agreement with the intermediary clearly states the community will retain responsibility for implementing and continuing to develop the project over the long term.

### *Is the project holistic in its approach?*

In evaluating a grant application, we look for projects that incorporate social, environmental, economic, and cultural concerns equally while addressing the immediate needs of the community. It is essential that projects demonstrate an approach based on the interconnectedness of people, assets, and environment. We fund projects that nourish all of the community's assets, including traditional knowledge, community solidarity, and cultural identity.

### *Is the project values based?*

In essence, our grantmaking strategy focuses on values. The common values that Indigenous communities share include the concepts of reciprocity and sharing, respect, responsibility, caring for and honoring one another, and the interdependence of all life. We assess grant applications on a case-by-case basis and whether these concepts are present in the project design. We favor those that clearly incorporate these values into their work. We believe positive and lasting changes are always made with these values in mind.

## SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION

*We only accept applications between January 1 and October 31.* In special circumstances, we will consider an application after October 31. In this case, you must contact us before applying.

### *Written Applications*

First Peoples receives written funding requests by email at [grants@firstpeoples.org](mailto:grants@firstpeoples.org) or by fax to 540-899-6501. You can also submit your application via postal service or other express delivery courier to:

Grants Coordinator  
First Peoples Worldwide  
857 Leeland Road  
Fredericksburg, VA 22405, USA

### *Video Applications*

First Peoples accepts grant applications in video format as an alternative to our written application. Your video can be composed any way you like but should depict your community's challenges and the solutions your community is using to overcome them. You should include multiple voices from members of your community. If possible, you should provide an English transcript of your video to help us understand the video's content. All submissions should include the following information:

- ◆ Your organization's name and any contact information you can provide
- ◆ The name and location of the Indigenous group submitting the video

First Peoples may request your permission to use your video on our website, in group presentations, and other media. Submit your video application via any of the following:

- ◆ Email your video application to [grants@firstpeoples.org](mailto:grants@firstpeoples.org).
- ◆ Upload your video to [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and send a link via email to [grants@firstpeoples.org](mailto:grants@firstpeoples.org).
- ◆ Mail a DVD copy of the video to the Grants Coordinator at the address listed above. Submission materials will not be returned to you.

## Questions?

Please contact us at [grants@firstpeoples.org](mailto:grants@firstpeoples.org).

## KEEPERS OF THE EARTH FUND

# Do You Qualify For a KOE Grant?

1

Did the idea for your project come from an Indigenous community *and* will the community control all major decisions about the project?

Yes No

If you answered no, your organization does not qualify for a KOE grant at this time. Visit [firstpeoples.org/grants/other-funding-sources](https://firstpeoples.org/grants/other-funding-sources) to browse other grant resources.

2

Is your organization Indigenous-led?

Yes No

3

What type of organization are you?

Non-profit, or your country's equivalent of a non-profit

Non-governmental organization

Community-based organization

Indigenous Peoples organization

Government agency

For-profit entity

Other

If government agency or for-profit, your organization does not qualify for a KOE grant at this time. Visit [firstpeoples.org/grants/other-funding-sources](https://firstpeoples.org/grants/other-funding-sources) to browse other grant resources.

4

Where is your organization based in relation to the community where the project will take place?

My organization is based in the community where the project will take place.

Less than 100 km away

More than 100 km away

5

Is your organization registered to operate under the laws of your country?

Yes No

If you answered no, your organization does not qualify for a KOE grant at this time. Visit [firstpeoples.org/grants/other-funding-sources](https://firstpeoples.org/grants/other-funding-sources) to browse other grant resources.

6

Does your organization have a bank account?

Yes No

7

If you answered no to question six, does your organization have a written agreement with a fiscal sponsor?

Yes No

If you answered no, your organization does not qualify for a KOE grant at this time. Visit [firstpeoples.org/grants/faqs-help](https://firstpeoples.org/grants/faqs-help) to learn about acquiring fiscal sponsorship.

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*Written Application Cover Sheet*

**ORGANIZATION INFORMATION**

Organization name

Phone

Fax

Mission of your organization

E-mail

Skype name

Website URL

Fiscal sponsor name, if applicable

Year founded and by whom

How are Indigenous peoples represented in the organization's leadership?

Organization contact name and title

List name, title, and tribe or village affiliation.

Mailing address

City

State/Province/Region

Postal Code

Country

PROJECT INFORMATION

Have you ever applied to First Peoples Worldwide for grant funding?

Yes No

Have you ever applied to any other donor for grant funding?

Yes No

If no, why not?

Which Indigenous group or tribe will your project serve?

Project title

Total project budget

Amount requested from First Peoples

Show budget amounts in US Dollars. Go to [xe.com](http://xe.com) to convert your currency.

If yes, where did you apply for funding, and how much have you requested from each source? If known, what is the status of these requests?

Expected project start date

Please allow up to eight weeks for your grant request to be processed.

Expected project duration



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*Written Application*

Responses longer than the space provided may be continued on the back of this document or on a separate, attached page.

Please include all documents listed at right.

*Required Attachments in English*

- ◆ Project budget in US Dollars, all sources
- ◆ By-laws, articles of incorporation, constitution, or equivalent organizing document
- ◆ List of board of directors or governing body
- ◆ Government registration certificate (if applicable), and/or copy of country's tax-exemption rule or act
- ◆ Copy of written and signed agreement with fiscal sponsor, if applicable



Tell us about your community.

2

What problem(s) does your community face and what solutions are working in your community?

3

Tell us about the project. What do you want to do?



4

How did the idea for the project come from your community, and how will your community control all major decisions about the project?

5

How are your community's values, spirituality, beliefs, and strengths demonstrated in the project?

6

How will your community's traditions and culture be strengthened by the project?

7

Why is the project important to your community, and how many people will benefit?

8

How will the funds be used?

9

Will you have to pay anyone? If so, please tell us who you will be paying and why.

10

Will you be purchasing supplies and/or equipment? If so, please list them.