

Bush Prize: Minnesota 2023 Guidelines & Application



About the Fund

Headwaters Foundation for Justice is partnering with the Bush Foundation to select the 2023 Bush Prize: Minnesota winner. The Bush Prize is an annual award that celebrates organizations that have a culture of innovation and a history of building creative solutions for challenges in their communities. We are excited to bring Headwaters' deep experience with community-led grantmaking to this established Bush Foundation program.

Bush Prize: Minnesota winners will receive a grant of up to 25% of the organization's last fiscal year expenses, up to \$500,000. Bush Prize grants are flexible general operating funds that can be used to support the organization's ongoing good work in whatever way best suits their needs.

Bush Prize: Minnesota winners will be organizations that are highly valued within their communities and have a track record of successful community problem solving. Their core work will use inclusive, collaborative, and resourceful processes to build power and advance justice throughout Minnesota, with a focus on racial and economic equity.



What Are the Characteristics of a Bush Prize Recipient?

Does the organization have a pattern of innovative solutions led by those most directly impacted by the issues they address?

- Are these breakthroughs in addressing community needs more effective, equitable or sustainable than existing approaches?
- Did these innovative solutions make a significant difference?
- Could the organization inspire or inform others?
- Does the organization's core work advance racial and/or economic equity by improving access, outcomes, or opportunities?

Does the organization have a pattern of using inclusive, collaborative and resourceful processes?

- Inclusive: meaningfully engaging key stakeholders, thoughtfully identifying those needed to create the intended change and, including those directly affected by the problem.
- Collaborative: a true joint effort, with partners willing to share ownership and decision-making as they pursue an innovation together.
- Resourceful: using existing resources and assets creatively to make the most of what a community already has.

Does the organizational leadership foster a culture of innovation?

- Is the organization stable and strong in terms of governance and finance?

Eligible Organizations

To be eligible, an organization must:

- Be legally incorporated entity with 501(c)(3), **or**, 501(c)(4) status, **or** have a fiscal sponsor
- Be based in and carry out their work in Minnesota
- Satisfy reporting requirements for all previous HFJ grants

Ineligible Organizations & Activities

The following entities and activities are ineligible for this fund:

- Organizations who have received a Bush Prize in the last 10 years
- Projects sponsored by a government agency
- Endowment funds
- Individuals; these grants are for organizations
- Partisan efforts
- Late or incomplete applications

Application Timeline

Applications will open on Tuesday, April 4, 2023. You must submit your organization's application by **5 p.m. Central on Wednesday, April 26, 2023** via our Grant Portal. We will not consider late or incomplete applications.

Application Requirements

A complete application will have:

- Complete answers to all application questions
- 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) organizations must provide:
 - Your most recently completed 990. If your organization does not file a 990, please attach your most recent 990-EZ or 990-N.

- Fiscally-Sponsored organizations must provide:
 - A letter, dated within the last two years, from the fiscal sponsor's Executive Director verifying the fiscal relationship;
 - The fiscal sponsor's most recent audited financials (if your fiscal sponsor does not have audited financials, please submit their most recent 990, 990-EZ, or 990-N);
 - Your most recent year-end income and expense report; and
 - Your current balance sheet

Application

1. Briefly describe your organization's history and mission. (250-word limit)

2. Briefly describe your community. What do we need to understand about your community or context to better understand the work highlighted in your proposal? (250-word limit)

3. Describe your organization's track record of innovation to advance racial and/or economic equity. Provide at least two examples of times when you achieved a community innovation (a breakthrough in addressing a community need that is more effective, equitable or sustainable than previous approaches). How do you know you were successful? If you are selected as a Bush Prize finalist, we will ask you to elaborate on these innovations. (750-word limit)

4. The Bush Prize is for organizations that have a culture of innovation. What principles and practices allow your organization to innovate? Provide examples of what this looks like in your organization on a day-to-day basis. (300-word limit)

5. Tell us how you build solutions to the issues your community faces. Describe specific examples of how your approach is inclusive, collaborative and resourceful according to the Bush Prize criteria. (500-word limit)

- Inclusive: meaningfully engaging key stakeholders, thoughtfully identifying those needed to create the intended change and including those directly affected by the problem.
- Collaborative: a true joint effort, with partners willing to share ownership and decision-making as they pursue an innovation together.
- Resourceful: using existing resources and assets creatively to make the most of what a community already has.

6. What sets your organization apart in your field? How is your approach different from the status quo? How are you trying to inform and inspire your field with your work? (250-word limit)

7. The Bush Prize is for organizations that think bigger and think differently about how they address community problems. What is your dream for the future of your

organization and its work? What are you doing now to work towards that dream? (250-word limit)

Financial Attachments

501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) organizations must upload:

- Your most recently completed 990. If your organization does not file a 990, please attach your most recent 990-EZ or 990-N

Fiscally-Sponsored organizations must upload:

- A letter, dated within the last two years, from the fiscal sponsor's Executive Director verifying the fiscal relationship;
- The fiscal sponsor's most recent audited financials (if your fiscal sponsor does not have audited financials, please submit their most recent 990, 990-EZ, or 990-N);
- Your most recent year-end income and expense report; and
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Questions

For general questions, contact:

- Ray Martinez, ray@headwatersfoundation.org or 612-400-6262

For questions about accessing and navigating the Grant Portal, contact:

- Toni Geurts, toni@headwatersfoundation.org or 612-400-6261



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