

Request for Proposal (RFP)

Field Landscape and Feasibility Assessment on Climate Equity Grantmaking Opportunities in Ohio

Introduction

As a leader in climate philanthropy, The Equity Fund provides catalytic and sustained funding, donor advising, capacity-building, and technical assistance to community-based organizations in 13 states. In partnership with climate leaders and funders, we advance community-supported solutions to deliver equitable economic opportunities and address disparities in health, housing, and job quality through a transition to clean energy.

The Climate and Clean Energy Equity Fund is inviting proposals from qualified consultants to assist in developing a detailed assessment of grantmaking opportunities that would advance the Equity Fund's theory of change in Ohio. This assessment would be utilized to inform recommendations for potential philanthropic investments that support organizations building power in Black, Latinx, AAPI, immigrant, and multi-racial communities to advance climate equity, clean energy transitions, and civic engagement in the state of Ohio.

Project Objectives

The selected consultant will work in collaboration with the Equity Fund to:

- Develop an approach to conducting the assessment that is congruent with our values
- Lead on conducting stakeholder interviews surveys, to assess community needs and organizational capacity.
- Conduct and present a detailed power analysis - analyzing the political, policy, and organizing landscape to inform strategies and policy mechanisms/vehicles for advancing climate equity initiatives.
- Assess civic engagement priorities and opportunities to advance proposed policy mechanisms/vehicles over the course of 1-5 years.
- Assess current and potential climate equity campaigns for viability, the likelihood of success, the potential to grow and mobilize a base, and build power for BIPOC and working-class Ohioans.
- Collaborate with Equity Fund staff to execute an in-person site visit in Ohio'
 - Schedule meetings with stakeholders
 - Co-develop agendas for each stakeholder meeting with Equity Fund Staff
 - Organize notes and collaborate with Equity Fund staff on the next steps after the site visit
- Identify and assess potential grantee partners and funding opportunities.

- Deliver a draft grantmaking strategy and set of grantmaking recommendations that prioritize racial, economic, and climate equity by early May 2025.
 - Provide inputs, notes, and analyses to contribute to a funder landscaping to advance and support the Equity Fund, socializing the proposed grantmaking strategy within the philanthropic community to attract new funding support.
-

Project Activities must include:

The consultant will:

- 1. Stakeholder Engagement**
 - Coordinate interviews with multiracial base-building organizations, public officials, labor leaders, climate advocates, philanthropic entities, and other stakeholders.
 - Guide discussions to uncover community priorities, funding needs, and capacity-building opportunities.
 - Bottomline the planning process for an in-person site visit in Ohio.
- 2. Collaborative Analysis**
 - Work with consultants and Equity Fund staff to gather data and identify high-impact funding gaps, particularly in underfunded communities.
- 3. Policy and Organizing Insights**
 - Facilitate evaluations of municipal-level climate initiatives, voter engagement efforts, and state legislative opportunities.
 - Explore multi-racial collaborations and campaigns to promote democracy and climate equity.
 - Research the political landscape and evaluate potential points of interaction on climate equity.
- 4. Strategic Recommendations**
 - Assist in drafting a grantmaking framework for multi-year investments.
 - Present findings to philanthropic partners, highlighting opportunities to strengthen Ohio's climate equity efforts.
- 5. Manage Logistics**
 - Manage logistics for work under this contract, including meeting planning, conference call administration, and copying and distributing necessary materials.

The Equity Fund will:

- 1. Provide Context**
 - a. Provide organizational background information and context to the Consultant as necessary to perform the Services outlined above.
- 2. Regular Communication**
 - a. Commit to regular communication between Equity Fund staff and the Consultant to manage the details of this scope of work and provide regular feedback on work in progress.

Term

The term of the statement of Work will commence on Feb 24, 2025 and shall continue until Jul 31, 2025 .

Qualifications

Candidate must be able to demonstrate Proven experience in leading complex, multi-stakeholder initiatives.

- Proven ability to assess equity policy advocacy opportunities
- Expertise and experience leveraging community organizing and/or power-building to achieve policy goals
- Strong analytical skills
- Excellent verbal and written communication and project management skills.
- Alignment with the values and priorities of the Equity Fund
- Deep understanding of the organizing infrastructure, environmental/climate advocacy, and the political landscape in Ohio.

Preference for a candidate who can also demonstrate:

- Familiarity with the philanthropic sector and community who would be prospective contributors/stakeholders to the project
- Previous success delivering a field and landscape analysis with a strong racial equity analysis
- Previous experience developing grant recommendations and/or large-scale advocacy campaign plans

Proposal Requirements

Interested applicants should submit:

1. **Cover Letter & Resume**
 - Highlight relevant experience and approach to the project.
2. **Technical Proposal**

- Detailed methodology and timeline for achieving the objectives and activities
 -
 - 3. **Time Estimate**
 - An estimate of hours or days required to perform the work and an hourly or daily consulting fee.
 - 4. **Cost Estimate**
 - A proposed fee for services cap and a reimbursable expenses cap.
 - 5. **References and Examples of Previous Work**
 - Contact information for at least two references familiar with the applicant's work.
 - Examples of past projects with similar scope.
-

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on:

- Alignment with project goals and objectives.
 - Experience and qualifications of the consultant
 - Feasibility and clarity of the proposed methodology.
 - Cost-effectiveness.
-

Timeline

- **RFP Release Date:** Jan 23, 2025
 - **Proposal Submission Deadline:** Feb 7, 2025
 - **Selection Announcement:** Feb 14, 2025
 - **Project Start Date:** Feb 24, 2025
-

Submission Details

Please send proposals to Harrison@theequityfund.org by Feb 7, 2025 . For any questions or additional information, contact Harrison Wallace at Harrison@theequityfund.org.
