

BECU Foundation Green Equity Initiative Grant Program: Official Rules

PROMOTER/SPONSOR

BECU Foundation
12770 Gateway Dr
Seattle, WA 98168

ENTRY

The BECU Foundation is requesting proposals for the Green Equity Initiative Grant Program: an environmental sustainability grants program seeking to fund public charities that support workforce development and entrepreneurs focused on equitable and green employment opportunities. By partnering with local organizations, the BECU Foundation can become a funder in support of the expansion of small businesses and entrepreneurship focused on green jobs and sustainability initiatives. This grant program will award applicants whose proposals have an emphasis on job creation, nonprofit and business to business partnerships, as well as micro lending.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible, an organization must be an Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) public charity that focuses on environmental sustainability issues in Washington state and other BECU service areas. Applicants need to demonstrate that they reach and serve urban and rural communities, in particular Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) neighborhoods experiencing environmental injustice or workforce exclusion by providing innovative solutions and financial assistance.

The BECU Foundation is requesting project proposals that do the following:

- Diversify and/or increase efforts to diversify workforce development pathways into “Green jobs” (i.e., HVAC, Advocacy or Policy, Solar, electric vehicles, etc.), and/or
- Provide environmentally sustainable and equitable housing, and/or
- Address inequities in BIPOC, rural, low income, immigrant/refugee communities caused by climate change, or unfair work conditions in the environmental (i.e., agriculture or farming) sector

Up to 8 awards of between \$50,000 and \$100,000 will be made to support public charities to: Enhance their operational capacity; Provide opportunities for sustainable and equitable housing and employment; and Implement Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion practices to diversify the workforce in environmental sustainability careers.

To be considered, the grant proposal must include the following information:

- Proposal Narrative, including:
 - Organization’s Mission Statement
 - Project title and description for this initiative, including a description of the problem that will be solved.
 - Description of why this organization is uniquely qualified to solve this problem.
 - Description of at least one similar, successful program the organization has undertaken and why it was successful.
 - Commitment to diversity pathway to green jobs, providing sustainable and equitable solutions to housing and employment.
 - Description of how your organization is addressing the root cause of the problem.
 - Commitment to collaboration and partnership

- Clear description of how funds would be used
 - Program strategy and timeline
 - Description of the organization's process/program for identifying sustainable solutions.
 - Project budget, including other sources of funding, if applicable
 - Number of communities or nonprofits or entrepreneurs supported each year
 - Average number of people employed by nonprofit or entrepreneur
 - Description of the measurement and evaluation plan that is used to measure the effectiveness of the program. *(A report showing that the organization has implemented this measurement and evaluation plan and achieved desired outcomes will be required.)*

Submit your proposal Through Optimy: <https://philanthropy-becufoundation.becu.org/en/>.

Grant submission deadline is October 27th, at 11:59pm PT.

Awardees will be required to submit a formal report, along with a mid-year progress report.

LIMITATIONS

Employees or agents of BECU, its affiliates, subsidiaries, advertising/promotional agencies, vendors, and the members of their immediate families or those persons living in the same household of such individuals are ineligible to enter. All federal, state, and local laws and regulations apply. Void where it is prohibited by law.

GRANT SELECTION

Green Equity Initiative Grantees will be selected by a panel of judges based on the following criteria:

1. Mission

Alignment of the organization's mission to support diversifying pathways to green jobs and providing sustainable and equitable solutions to housing and employment.

2. Scale and Impact

The potential scale and impact of the project, as demonstrated through a project proposal, annual budget, staff makeup, and clear explanation on need for funding to build capacity and/or innovative technologies.

3. Project/Program Area

Project and Program alignment The proposal should clearly outline how the award will be used to support and/or advance service, innovative and sustainable solutions, and financial assistance to vulnerable urban and rural communities (i.e., BIPOC neighborhoods impacted by environmental injustice).

WINNERS

Up to a total of eight (8) applicants will be selected for a one (1) year grant, subject to agreeing to any requirements and entering into any agreements as may be required by the BECU Foundation. Winners will be notified by email November 2023. Winners will have 10 business days from date of notification to contact email BECU_Foundation@becu.org. Should the winner fail to comply with this requirement or otherwise be unable to accept the grant, the winner will forfeit the grant and it will go to the first selected alternate. In the event of non-compliance with these requirements, winner may be disqualified, and an alternate winner selected.

FUNDING STRUCTURE

This grant program will award up to \$875k to eight selected applicants, each award ranging from \$50,000 to \$100,000. The amount of each award will be decided based on the scale of the project, and not based on the size of the organization. This is a one-year grant program. Funds will be disbursed in a lump sum to grantees. Selected grantees will

need to provide an invoice in the amount of the grant, ACH (Automated Clearing House) form for direct deposit and complete the most recent version of the W9 form within 15 business days of notification they have been selected.

CONDITIONS

By participating, applicants agree to these Official Rules and acknowledge and agree that the decisions of BECU Foundation shall be final and binding in all respects. By participating, entrants release BECU Foundation and its affiliates, subsidiaries, advertising/promotional agencies, and vendors, and the employees, officers, directors, and agents of any of the above organizations from all liability for any injuries, losses, or damages of any kind caused by an applicant's participation or applicant's acceptance, possession, or use/misuse of grant funding. Where legal, by accepting grant funding, a winning applicant grants permission to BECU Foundation to use their name, organization name, likeness, photograph, and statements for advertising/publicity purposes without further compensation.