

Grow Application & FAQs:

<https://grassrootsfund.org/grant-programs/grow-grants>

Questions?

Contact Mary Jones at mary@grassrootsfund.org



Grow Application Scoring Rubric

Grow grants support existing community groups in New England working at the intersection of Social Justice and the Environmental movement with grants between \$1000-\$4000. Grow grants prioritize support for community groups whose work aligns with our [Guiding Practices](#) and are not being reached by other funders. Groups do NOT need 501c3 status or a fiscal sponsor to apply.

Below is the rubric Community Grant Readers and staff use to evaluate Grow applications. Typically, every application is reviewed by at least five readers and one staff member. Feedback and comments from readers guide staff review questions during follow-up calls with applicants. Reader input also influences how the Grantmaking Committee (composed of grassroots leaders) approaches each application before making a final decision on funding. For more details on our participatory grantmaking process, see <https://grassrootsfund.org/decide>

Readers and staff score applications using the Grassroots Fund's [Guiding Practices](#). In addition, applications are evaluated on the extent to which providing funding would support "Resourcing Community Work." This means the group both leverages local (financial & non-financial) resources and has limited access to grant funding. There is also a category where readers score based on their gut feeling. In each section, readers rate applications on a scale of 1-4, with 4 indicating that the applicant is excelling in that area. Thus, the minimum total score an application can receive is 6 and the maximum is 24.

At the bottom, you will see recommended funding levels based on different ranges of scores. These serve as a guidepost, the Grantmaking Committee makes final decisions about award amounts.

	Score	Notes / Comments
Eligibility considerations	Yes / No	
Staff: No more than 2 full time paid staff equivalent (80 hrs/week total)		
Budget: Annual operating budget of no more than around \$100K		
Geographic Scope: Local focus, New England based		
Project assessment	1-4	
Rooted Innovation		
Applicant sets priorities informed by the whole community, rather than a small group. - Group understands the context and placement of their work within their local community. - Group takes a collaborative approach to working with other groups. - Group is working in direct response to identified community needs.		
Shifting Power & Decision-Making		
Applicant practices group governance that intentionally shares power. - Group leadership directly represents the community. - Group composition is diverse across numerous self-identifiers or demographics. - Group has transparent feedback processes.		
Equity in Participation		
Applicant supports the fullest of all community members. - Group is prioritizing engagement of traditionally marginalized community groups. - Group is working to understand barriers to participation in their work.		
Centering a Just Transition		
Applicant integrates ecological and social justice in their vision for their community. - Group is working in intersectional and overlapping ways. - Group is working in regenerative and relationship-based ways. - Group is prioritizing community agency and self-determination.		
Resourcing Community Work		
Applicant faces barriers accessing grant funding otherwise, despite a track record of creatively leveraging resources for their group. - Group names specific challenges to receiving grant funding (ex. lack of 501c3 status, group operates as an all volunteer-effort, etc). - Group actively seeks in-kind donations and/or relies on knowledge and resources from community members to make its work happen.		
Overall "Gut Feeling"		
Recognizing that our rubric cannot capture everything about this project that might be worth up-lifting, this category speaks to the reader's overall assessment of the project.		
Total score		
Recommendation (%)		
Recommended funding level (\$)		
Reader Comments/Questions		
CALL NOTES		

QUESTION:		RESPONSE:	
Total Score	Rec. % of request	Rec. Funding Level	
21.5-24	100.00%	\$4,000.00	
18.5-21.4	85.00%	\$3,400.00	
15.5-18.4	70.00%	\$2,800.00	
13.5-15.4	50.00%	\$2,000.00	
10.5-13.4	Automatic discuss, even if staff/reader scores align. Funding level TBD on case-by-case basis.		
1-10.4	0.00%	\$0.00	