

Request For Proposals (RFP)
Member Catalyzing Grants: Grassroots/Frontlines Grant
Grant Period: 7/1/2026 - 6/30/2027
Applications Due: 4/25/2026, 5:00 PM EST

The US Climate Action Network (USCAN) is pleased to announce \$300,000 in grants available to member organizations through our Member Grants Program. The link to the Application Platform is found [here](#). The proposal must be 501(c)(3) compliant.

Purpose: The purpose of the 2026 USCAN Member Catalyzing Grant Program is to direct funding to BIPOC-led grassroots and frontline climate organizations.

Grant Category

Grassroots/Frontline Grant (one-year term – up to \$25,000)

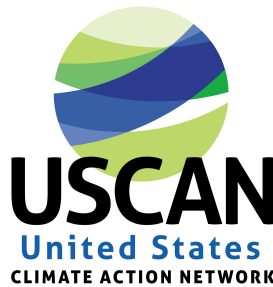
This grant can fund operations/administrative costs, campaigns, and/or programmatic needs. Please note: campaigns cannot include election-related activities, such as endorsing any federal or state candidates.

Priority will be given to proposals that leverage other resources and relationships.

Eligibility Criteria

The following are mandatory eligibility criteria:

- The applicant organization must be BIPOC-led (majority BIPOC board, BIPOC executive director, or majority BIPOC leadership)
- The applicant organization must have an annual operating budget of \$300,000 or less
- The applicant organization must be a USCAN member as of March 1, 2025
- The applicant organization must have participated in the 2025 USCAN Annual Meeting (in person or virtually)
- The applicant organization must have adopted or agree to adopt the Jemez Principles and USCAN Principles (see appendix)
- The applicant organization must be tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) and classified as a public charity pursuant to Internal Revenue Code Section 509(a)(1), (2), or (3)



No-Cost Extensions: Grant recipients may, upon request, receive a no-cost extension beyond their current grant period, provided no additional funding is needed to complete grant deliverables.

Process

This grant process (including this RFP and criteria) is created and implemented with the advice and participation of a Review Team.

Selection of the Review Team:

The review team is open to all USCAN members, and invitations to join are shared in several Network Updates.

We seek members of the Review team who are:

- USCAN board member
- Environmental Justice leader
- Economic Justice leader
- Youth/Intergenerational Equity leader
- Faith Community leader

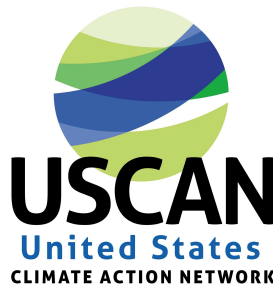
The Review Team for 2026 includes:

- *Rev. Brendolyn Jenkins Boseman, The Imani Group*
- *Basav Sen, Institute for Policy Studies*
- *Commissioner Rev. Dr. ErNiko Brown, Organized Uplifting Resources and Strategies (OURS)*
- *Gloria Ricks, Mt. Zion Community Outreach, Inc.*
- *Leah Wiste, Michigan Interfaith Power & Light*
- *Sarah Diefendorf, Capacity Collaborative*
- *Nakisa Glover, CoCoEco Initiative*

The Review Team has agreed to disclose any conflict of interest (personal, organizational, or otherwise) and abstain from any deliberations in which they have a conflict. All committee members have signed a Committee Agreement outlining roles, expectations, and decision-making authority.

Processing Applications

- Grant applications are submitted using the Submittable grant platform.
- The Catalyzing Grants Review Team will review proposals and come together in mid-May for virtual deliberation.
- The Catalyzing Grants Review Team will offer one-on-one debriefs with organizations that requested them and did not receive funding.
- A response from USCAN staff will be provided to all applicants by the week of 5/25.



- Funding for approved applicants will be provided contingent upon execution of the Grant Agreement, with all funds disbursed by June 18, 2026.
- USCAN may reach out to other funders to invite them to co-fund proposals.
- We welcome applications from organizations that have applied for or received previous funding from USCAN.
- The USCAN grant review committee may reach out before final funding decisions are made to ask applicants clarifying questions or offer suggestions.

Deliverables

Applicants who receive funding must commit to:

- Work with USCAN promptly to agree upon grant terms
- Submit a one-page report outlining how the funds were used and what was achieved by June 30, 2027, including outcomes (the project impact) and outputs (the project deliverables), as well as photos
- Allow USCAN to share your successful grant application and one-page report with USCAN members via the bi-monthly newsletter, the USCAN Annual Report, Social Media, and with funders

USCAN and the Grants Review Team commit to:

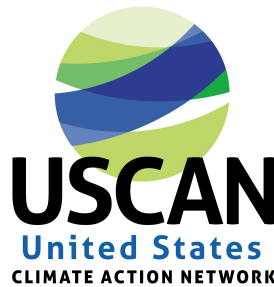
- Embody the Jemez Principles (Appendix A)
- Listen to your needs in this grant process
- Recognize this as your work (not ours) and promote your work to our broader membership and funders
- Respect your expertise and leadership, and do not micro-manage your project
- Justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion
- Recuse themselves from reviewing any proposal where they have a self-identified conflict of interest of any kind

Timeline & How to Apply

Applications are due by 5 pm EST on April 25, 2026. USCAN staff will collect grant proposals via the Submittable grant platform. The link to the submission is found [here](#).

2026 KEY DATES:

- Office Hours #1: March 30th at 5pm EST
- Office Hours #2: April 9th at 3pm EST
- Office Hours #3: April 15th at 12pm EST
- 4/25: Applications Due (5 pm EST)
- Week of 5/25: All applicants notified
- 6/18: All funds disbursed

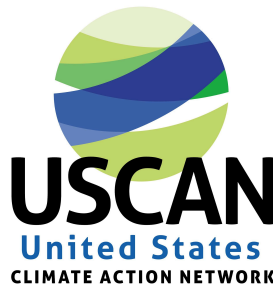


Disclaimer: This RFP is not an offer to enter into a funding agreement. Until a written funding agreement is fully executed, USCAN will have no obligation to any applicant. Nothing in this RFP shall be legally binding upon USCAN, and USCAN reserves the right to make funding decisions at our own discretion, and to change the terms of this RFP at any time.

Questions and Resources

Questions and Resources

- You can also reach out to Tahisha Victor at catalyze@usclimatenetwork.org.
- [You can view past recipients here.](#)
- The Review Team Rubric is found [here](#).
- Sign up for Office Hours. Applicants are welcome to ask questions or provide support
 - [Office Hours #1: March 30th at 5pm EST](#)
 - [Office Hours #2: April 9th at 3pm EST](#)
 - [Office Hours #3: April 15th at 12pm EST](#)



Appendix A

The Jemez Principles for Democratic Organizing

Meeting hosted by Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice (SNEEJ), Jemez, New Mexico, Dec. 1996

Activists meet on Globalization

On December 6-8, 1996, forty people of color and European-American representatives met in Jemez, New Mexico, for the "Working Group Meeting on Globalization and Trade." The Jemez meeting was hosted by the Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice with the intention of hammering out common understandings between participants from different cultures, politics and organizations. The following "Jemez Principles" for democratic organizing were adopted by the participants.

#1 Be Inclusive

If we hope to achieve just societies that include all people in decision-making and assure that all people have an equitable share of the wealth and the work of this world, then we must work to build that kind of inclusiveness into our own movement in order to develop alternative policies and institutions to the treaties policies under neo-liberalism. This requires more than tokenism, it cannot be achieved without diversity at the planning table, in staffing, and in coordination.

#2 Emphasis on Bottom-Up Organizing

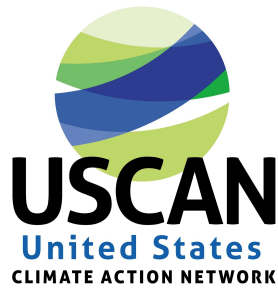
To succeed, it is important to reach out into new constituencies, and to reach within all levels of leadership and membership base of the organizations that are already involved in our networks. We must be continually building and strengthening a base which provides our credibility, our strategies, mobilizations, leadership development, and the energy for the work we must do daily.

#3 Let People Speak for Themselves

We must be sure that relevant voices of people directly affected are heard. Ways must be provided for spokespersons to represent and be responsible to the affected constituencies. It is important for organizations to clarify their roles, and who they represent, and to assure accountability within our structures.

#4 Work Together In Solidarity and Mutuality

Groups working on similar issues with compatible visions should consciously act in solidarity, mutuality and support each other's work. In the long run, a more significant step is to incorporate the goals and values of other groups with your own work, in order to build strong relationships.

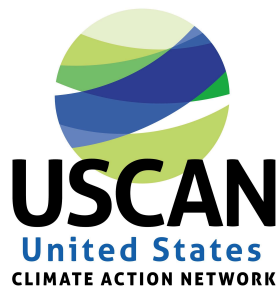


#5 Build Just Relationships Among Ourselves

We need to treat each other with justice and respect, both on an individual and an organizational level, in this country and across borders. Defining and developing "just relationships" will be a process that won't happen overnight. It must include clarity about decision-making, sharing strategies, and resource distribution.

#6 Commitment to Self-Transformation

As we change societies, we must change from operating on the mode of individualism to community-centeredness. We must "walk our talk." We must be the values that we say we're struggling for and we must be justice, be peace, be community.



Appendix B

Definition of Grassroots/Frontline Organizations

USCAN defines grassroots/frontline organizations as groups that are:

- Led by and work in Indigenous communities, communities of color, and low-income areas
- Directly impacted by climate change impacts and/or industrial extraction, production, and dumping
- Traditionally underfunded