

Mobility Fund | 2022 Request for Proposals

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Timeline

Table 1 summarizes the Request for Proposal (RFP) process by due date.

Table 1. 2022 RFP Process and Timeline.

Action	Date
RFP release: Letter of Interest (LOI) form open online	July 14, 2022, LOI form here
Informational session	July 21, 2022, register here
Letter of Interest Form closes	July 28, 2022
Invitations issued to submit a full proposal	August 16, 2022
Proposals due	September 30, 2022, at 2 pm CT
Advisory Team proposal review and award decisions	October 3, 2022 – October 27, 2022
Awards announced	October 28, 2022

Funding Opportunity Overview

The Mobility Fund is a project of the [Global Philanthropy Partnership](#) (GPP) and supports community advocates working at the intersection of mobility policies and climate justice to create easy access to attractive, affordable, clean transportation in the United States (U.S.). This fund asks its grantees to focus resources on priority communities in rural and urban areas alike. Priority communities are most immediately impacted by racial injustice, poverty, disproportionate health risks, and the extreme weather events caused by climate change.

The purpose of this funding opportunity is to gap-fill needs so that mobility advocates can work in priority communities to:

1. Free people from the cost and health burdens of carbon-emitting cars by: increasing equitable, affordable, and safe access to emission-free transportation options; optimizing public transit capacity and safety; supporting walking, cycling, and other low-carbon trips; pursuing recovery



funding for public transit; advancing mobility by directly supporting priority communities through subgrants; and integrating climate justice into mobility work.

2. Gap-fill within essential advocacy group operations, especially those with leadership from priority communities, by: focusing on community organizing to advance sustainable, equitable mobility; building advocacy campaigns to advance sustainable, equitable mobility; and generating follow-on work to create beneficial and sustained local mobility impacts.
3. Support collaboration in advancing equitable, affordable, safe and emissions-free mobility within priority communities and across regions by: building partnerships with one or more climate action groups within and/or across regions; and partnering with one or more priority communities.

The Definitions section at the end of this RFP defines key terms used by the Mobility Fund.

Vision and Theory of Change

This grant program encourages a balanced, multimodal approach to transportation system transformation. It calls on grantees to equally prioritize mobility issues for the communities by advancing: (1) all forms of public transit, including bus and rail systems; (2) all forms of active transportation, including biking, electric scooters, and walking; (3) all forms of ride and infrastructure sharing, to create accessible mobility hubs full of viable options; and (4) the ability for all people who need to own a car to be able to comfortably afford to buy and confidently know they can charge EVs where they live, work, and play. Combined, these problem-solving tools require all people to own the process of making transportation cheaper, healthier, and carbon-free.

If the Mobility Fund supports community advocates working with priority communities to provide easy access to attractive, affordable, clean transportation in the U.S., then it will model balanced, multimodal transportation investing, and be positioned to partner with and leverage similar efforts, with the ability to show new, quantitative impacts from this collaborative work.

Climate Justice

We define climate justice as actions that address the root causes of the inequitable distribution of the burdens and benefits of climate change between different communities. By embedding climate justice in the Mobility Fund, we aim to recognize the disproportionality of the effects of climate change and guide future work for prioritizing climate action that advances the wellbeing of marginalized communities.

Award Budget and Selection Process

There is \$313,000 available to award in this RFP.¹ An Advisory Team provides guidance on fund design and makes award decisions. It consists of representatives from mobility advocacy and national funders. Members of the Mobility Fund Advisory Team who participate in any competitive submission will not score those submissions.

¹ The fund anticipates making 5-7 awards ranging from \$40,000 - \$60,000.



Applicant Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible, all proposals must: **(1)** be submitted and led by a mobility advocate group or a priority community with an ongoing focus on mobility work;² **(2)** list at least 1 additional priority community or mobility advocate group as a partner;³ and **(3)** be completed within 6-9 months.

To encourage collaboration, more partners are welcome. Other grant partners (nonprofits, consultants, etc.) should be noted in the proposal. If they have not been on-boarded at the time of proposal submission, the process for getting them on boarded should be noted (e.g., a request for proposals that will take 2 months from issue to consultant contract, for instance).

While this round does not require a 1:1 funding match, matching funds are strongly encouraged. Proposals that secure matching funds to support the proposed work earn additional points commiserate with the amount of the supporting match.

Gap-filling measures will be considered against how applicants use the following proven actions:

Advance Multimodal Infrastructure Initiatives

- Advocate for building infrastructure that supports multimodal transportation standard in all related infrastructure projects, like urban and rural developments.
- Support technology platforms and information systems that help people understand their options for getting around.
- Lift up structural policy change that advances just transportation planning and initiatives using both technical and advocacy approaches.

Challenge Unjust Infrastructure

- Build capacity within priority communities to rebuild fractured neighborhoods and to remove the mechanisms that discourage accessible, shared, and active transportation, such as highway or road expansions that only focus on moving individual vehicles around.

Recognize and Define

- Examine how mobility services operate in priority urban and rural communities, including access to basic needs, economic opportunity, and amenities.
- Define what equitable mobility access is on a community-by-community basis.
- Understand the roles that policies play in reducing transport GHGs.

Activate and Track

- Build capacity through process-based partnerships that unlock funds across geographies.
- Support long-term use of just, healthy, and affordable modes of transportation on a community-by community basis.
- Incentivize and track people shifting from one to a variety of mobility modes, including the use of electricity-powered cars, bikes, and scooters.

A more detailed list of proven actions can be found [here](#). Invited proposals should address 1 or more of these proven actions.

²All applicants must have a legal designation or be fiscally sponsored by an organization with a legal designation - like a nonprofit, B-corporation, social enterprise, or a public benefits corporation.

³ This partner can be within the same locale or span regions.

Ineligible Activities

Funds cannot be used for: 1) direct provision of transportation services, technology, planning, or infrastructure which are normally the responsibility of government agencies to provide; 2) backfilling government agency budgets to replace services that have been cut;⁴ and 3) lobbying as defined by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) such as involvement in elections or ballot measures.⁵

Application Process

Mobility advocate groups interested in this funding opportunity must apply following these steps:

1. Complete an online Letter of Interest (LOI) Form, [here](#)
2. Fund Staff and the Advisory Team will review all LOI Forms and **invite full proposals from applicants** that submit ideas that appear to best align with this fund's goals
3. Invited applicants submit a full proposal by September 30, 2022 in one of two ways:
 - a. Complete a written proposal form sent with the invitation to propose
-OR-
 - b. Provide proposed work details in a verbal, recorded interview. A summary of the discussion is provided by fund management to the applicant for review/edits/approval to inform the award decision process.

Technical Assistance Opportunities

Reference the Award Guidelines and Policies document [here](#) to understand fund processes. This resource is built to preemptively address questions from proposers and grantees. If questions linger after review, reach out to fund management staff [Liz Holiday](#). Fund management can vet ideas with proposers and troubleshoot with grantees throughout the life of the grant, as questions arise. Fund management staff does not manage or contribute labor to awarded work, however.

Reporting Requirements

When the work completes, grantees submit a final report on methodology and effectiveness. A template is [here](#). Grantees also submit a detailed record of grant funds budgeted and expended during the grant. The original budget submitted with the proposal can simply be updated with an “actuals” column.

Definitions

- **Mobility Advocate Group:** A mobility advocate group is an organization of individuals within a community that amplify residents' voices on the need for expanded transit, biking, walking and land use that enables people to thrive without depending on an automobile.
- **Priority Communities:** Communities comprised of people who are most impacted by systems of oppression and injustice, economic disadvantage, environmental harm, and climate vulnerability. Examples include people with low-incomes, seniors, individuals living with disabilities, working class residential areas, and groups of people who routinely face systemic injustices – like immigrant or refugee communities, communities of color, and indigenous communities.

⁴ It is not within the capacity or responsibility of philanthropy to do things that only governments can do at scale.

⁵ We encourage projects to include education of stakeholders such as state and federal decisionmakers on the benefits of multiple mobility modes.