

2026 Vilcek Foundation Grants
Frequently Asked Questions

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Eligibility Requirements

What types of organizations are eligible to apply for a Vilcek Foundation Grant?

Please review all eligibility requirements and restrictions listed on the Grants Page on our website, at the following link: <https://www.vilcek.org/grants>.

My organization is not a nonprofit under IRC Section 501(c)(3), but we have a fiscal sponsor with 501(c)(3) status. Are we eligible to apply? No. Organizations working with fiscal sponsors, even when the fiscal sponsor is a nonprofit organization under IRC Section 501(c)(3), are not eligible to apply. Nonprofit organizations that sponsor organizations are not eligible to apply for a grant on behalf of a sponsored organization or initiative.

What documents are organizations required to submit with an application?

Organizations must provide the following documents with an application:

- An organizational or project budget. The budget should include core expense categories, anticipated expenses, and sources of income.
- An IRS Letter of Determination.
- A current W-9 for the organization with a valid signature and EIN.
- The organization's most recent Form 990 filed with the IRS. Accepted forms include 990, 990-PF, 990-EZ, and 990-N.
- An audited financial statement or balance sheet showing the organization's finances for the most recent, completed fiscal year.

My organization is newly established and has not yet filed a Form 990 with the IRS. Are we still eligible to apply?

Applications missing any required documents, including the Form 990, will not be considered. All listed documents are mandatory for an application to be eligible.

Are individuals, artists, or scientific researchers eligible to apply for grants?

No. The foundation's grants are intended to support nonprofit organizations that are exempt under IRC Section 501(c)(3).

Our organization applied for a grant in a previous cycle, and our application was declined. Can we apply again in this cycle?

Provided an organization meets all eligibility requirements and is seeking support for projects or operations that align with the foundation's mission, vision, and funding priorities, they can apply in this cycle.

Our organization is in the midst of a large capital campaign or fundraising effort. Can we apply for a grant in support of these initiatives?

The foundation does not award grants for capital projects or campaigns, nor does it award grants to organizations seeking support to cover the costs of galas, award ceremonies, or other events primarily intended as fundraisers.

Timeline and Calendar

When are grant applications accepted?

The application window for the **2026 Vilcek Foundation Grants** opened on September 1, 2025, and runs through April 30, 2026, 11:59 pm ET. Applications for the **2027 Vilcek Foundation Grants** will open in November 2026.

What is the award period?

All proposed activities and operations must take place between September 1, 2026, and August 31, 2027.

Our organization is seeking funding for a project that begins before September 1, 2026, or continues after August 31, 2027. Can we still apply for a grant?

Programs or projects that start prior to September 1, 2026, will not be considered. If a project or proposal extends beyond the August 31, 2027, award period, an organization may only seek funding to support activities through that date.

When will grant funds be distributed?

Funds will be disbursed to grant recipients in August 2026.

Grant Details and Funding Priorities

What is the foundation looking for in a grant application?

Applications must show that the applying organization has a clear mission, vision, and a specific plan. Applications should clearly explain what the organization does, and how the proposed operations or projects are unique, meaningful, and relevant to the Vilcek Foundation.

How much grant funding will be awarded in this cycle?

A total sum of \$200,000 in grants will be awarded in this open call cycle, with each grant ranging from \$5,000 to \$20,000.

How competitive are grant applications for this funding opportunity?

Grant applications are extremely competitive. In the 2025 open call cycle, the foundation received applications from more than 1,300 organizations and awarded \$200,000 in grants to 14 organizations.

Is grant funding prioritized in any specific U.S. states, regions, or territories?

The foundation will consider applications from eligible organizations in all 50 U.S. states and the eligible territories. Funding will be prioritized in states and territories where the foundation has not previously awarded grants. As of January 1, 2026, the foundation had yet to award grants in the following states and territories: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Who makes the decisions, and how are they made?

Grant applications are reviewed by the foundation's Grants Department, with final decisions

approved by the president and the board. Grants are awarded on the basis of alignment with the foundation's mission and strategic vision.

Where can I see a list of past grants awarded by the foundation?

A comprehensive list of past grants awarded by the foundation can be found on our Grants History page at the following link: <https://vilcek.org/grants/grants-history>.

Application Process

How do I apply for a grant from the Vilcek Foundation?

All grant applications must be submitted through the foundation's Grant Portal. Register for the Grant Portal at the following link: <http://portal.vilcek.org/grantportal>.

Can my organization request to have a call or a meeting with a member of the foundation's staff to discuss whether our organization's work is a fit?

Yes. However, due to limited staff capacity, the foundation is unable to respond to all requests for calls and meetings.

How can I assess if my organization is eligible to apply, or if our operations or projects align with the Vilcek Foundation's funding priorities?

Applicants are encouraged to carefully review the following resources to determine eligibility and alignment:

- [Grants Page](#) (Vilcek.org)
- [Grants History](#) (Vilcek.org)
- [25 Years of Giving: Vilcek Foundation Announces Annual Call for Grants](#) (Vilcek.org)
- [Vilcek Foundation Continues 25-Year Legacy of Giving, Announces \\$200,000 Open Call for Grant Applications](#) (PR Newswire)

How many applications can an organization submit?

Eligible organizations are only allowed to submit one application per funding cycle. The one exception is large nonprofit organizations or universities where multiple distinct departments or initiatives may be classified under the same EIN. Individual departments or institutions within a qualifying organization may each apply for a grant from the foundation, provided their proposals are separate and distinct from one another.

- e.g., "The University Museum" and "The Center for Immigration Studies at University" may each submit an application for a grant from the foundation, even if both operate under the same EIN.

Can foundation staff review or provide feedback on a draft application before submission?

No. To ensure a fair review process, foundation staff are not able to review or provide feedback on draft applications before they are submitted.

Can I make edits or changes to my application after I have submitted it?

All grant applications submitted through the Grant Portal are final. The foundation will not respond

to any requests to edit, change, or add supplemental materials to applications following submission.

In the Grant Portal, I received a notification that I should have received an email, but I did not. What should I do?

Check all email inboxes affiliated with your organization's account, and check your junk and spam folders carefully. Add @vilcek.org as an allowed sender, and add grants@vilcek.org as a contact.

I am receiving an error message or experiencing issues with the Grant Portal. What steps should I take to remedy this situation?

To ensure the best experience with the Grant Portal and to troubleshoot any issues, the foundation recommends:

- Reviewing the Grant Application Guide.
- Using a desktop or laptop computer to access the Grant Portal. The site is optimized for desktop use.
- If using macOS, we recommend using the most up-to-date version of the Safari Browser or Google Chrome with cookies and pop-ups enabled.
- If using Windows, we recommend using the most up-to-date version of Google Chrome with cookies and pop-ups enabled.
- If you have experienced issues accessing the Grant Portal or your application, we encourage you to clear your browser cache and restart your browser before your next login.
- If you have other issues or receive any error messages in the Grant Portal, please take a screenshot that shows the issue or error message. Send an email to grants@vilcek.org describing the issue, including the screenshot in the body of the message.

How will I know if my grant application has been submitted?

Once an organization has submitted a grant application, it will receive an email confirmation. Organizations can also see their application and status in the Grant Portal.

When will I find out the decision on my application?

All applicants will be notified of decisions through email by September 2026. Organizations can also see their application and status in the Grant Portal. The recipients of the 2026 Vilcek Foundation Grants will be announced publicly in November 2026.

If an organization is awarded a grant, what are the next steps?

All accepted grant applications and proposals are subject to a grant agreement. The Vilcek Foundation will contact organizations whose applications are accepted to set up a grant agreement. The foundation will provide the grant recipient with clear instructions on the terms of the grant and reporting requirements.

If my organization does not receive a grant, can I request feedback on our application and why it was declined?

Due to the highly competitive nature of our grants and the large number of applications received, we are unable to provide feedback on individual applications.

Other Questions?

If you have questions that are not addressed in this document, please contact us at grants@vilcek.org.