



The SAGE Fund: Women's Economic Justice Request for Proposals

The SAGE Fund invites two-page concept notes from organisations implementing innovative efforts to strengthen women's economic justice and secure women's livelihoods. Proposals must be received by **14 December 2019**.

Overview

Economic globalization has fostered an economic-growth centered system based on unsustainable models of production and exploitation of natural resources, with women in marginalized communities often bearing disproportionate costs of production, extraction, and environmental harms. The voices, rights and interests of women in these impacted communities are not driving – or even heard in – development and investment decision-making, often resulting in policies and practices that further disempower women and undermine their livelihoods. In addition, economic policies in many countries continue to dismantle public services and social protection systems, at the expense of women's paid and unpaid work. Women continue to be overrepresented in precarious, occupationally segregated jobs; they are paid less than men and often lack social security and effective protection against harassment and violence.

In the context of a 25-year global review and appraisal of the Beijing Declaration Platform of Action in 2020, there is an opportunity to expand the knowledge and engagement of women's rights and allied fields on women's economic justice issues to more powerfully lead and advocate for new solutions by:

- Identifying pressure points and opportunities to advance women's equal access to and control over financial and natural resources, including their right to access safe, secure and equitable livelihoods;
- Spurring development of tools and strategies to leverage those openings;
- Enhancing women's voices, power and participation in economic decision-making and in driving social and economic change; and
- Fostering collaboration across women's movements and allied fields on economic justice.

The SAGE Fund will hold an open Request for Proposals (RFP) to support a set of projects that strengthen women's economic justice and secure women's livelihoods. The Fund will design a learning process to accompany the RFP, sharing analysis and opportunities with the field and building synergies across the projects.

Project Criteria

In 2020, the Fund will make 5-7 grants of US \$50,000 – \$100,000 each, to organisations or partnerships that are designed to achieve at least one of the following:

- Seed promising approaches and innovative advocacy to advance key issues in women's economic justice in local, regional and global contexts, by:
 - Piloting a new tool or strategy (or further developing the potential of an existing one);
 - Developing a promising model, mechanism or policy proposal (or applying a successful approach to a new context); or
 - Creating partnerships and strategies to connect and translate global and regional processes into local transformative agendas.

- Advance the field's understanding of key issues, build a collective agenda and identify opportunities to strengthen the women's rights and allied movements and fields' response, through:
 - Evidence-gathering and analysis on challenges or barriers to women's economic justice, with options for action-oriented advocacy;
 - Scoping exercises, field convenings and mobilization to develop consensus on key challenges, opportunities for leverage and a field agenda; or
 - Education and outreach initiatives to create priorities for action, and build or mobilize new movements, coalitions or constituencies across fields.

Geographical scope: Projects may take place anywhere in the world. Organisations from Africa, Asia and Latin America are strongly encouraged to apply.

Language: Concept notes must be submitted in English. Grantee organisations or partnerships are welcome to work in any language but must have one partner or someone within the partnership or organisation that can communicate with the Fund in English.

Organisational Criteria

Women's rights organisations or social justice organisations with a mission and programs strongly aligned with women's economic justice and economic and social rights are invited to apply, including:

- NGOs (preference will be given to national-level, local or regional NGOs);
- Movements (including affected communities and worker movements);
- Networks, coalitions, and project partnerships (preference will be given to those with strong participation and leadership from the Global South); and/or
- Research centers with strong links to activist practice.

Project proposals may be submitted by an individual organisation or by two or more groups as project partners. International NGOs or anchor NGOs from the Global North may participate as a project partner but are not intended as a primary grantee and may not receive the majority of the funds.

Eligible organisations must either:

- Be a legally registered charity in the local country and have a bank account that is capable of receiving international wire transfers; or
- Designate an NGO that is legally registered in the country and has a local bank account capable of receiving international wire transfers to serve as the project's fiscal agent.

Grant Support

Grants are for a term of one year and are for project activities with a clear start and end date and with an identifiable set of outcomes. Recognising that the timeline for strategies is often longer than one year, please think of the project funding period as the first phase in a longer-term process and design it with feasible and concrete outcomes at the end of one-year. Grant funds are not intended as core support and may not be used to support lobbying or political activities.

Application Process

A two-stage application process will be used to open up the process to a diverse pool of groups while lessening the burden on groups applying by keeping the first submission to a brief concept note.

December 14, 2019: Two-page concept notes and completed application forms are due.

Concept Note

- Brief narrative that includes a description of the project, goal(s), timeline of activities, outcomes, grant amount requested, very brief statement of need (the problem or issue the project addresses), and if successful, what do you expect to transform or change as a result of the project;
- Please title and save your concept note using the following format:
[Primary Applicant Organisation's Name]_SAGEFund_2020_WEJ_RFP

Application Form

Brief online application form that requests basic information for the applicant organisation(s) including name and contact details, size of annual budget, number of full-time staff, list of main funders, and contact details for one funder reference; and amount of grant requested.

March – June 2020: The SAGE Fund will work with a small number of organisations selected to submit a full proposal. If approved, grant funds would be available for a project start in July 2020.

Next Steps

1. Complete the online application form via this [link](https://forms.gle/PskUg88ySwbTmcYw8) (https://forms.gle/PskUg88ySwbTmcYw8) by **14 December 2019**.
2. Email your 2-page concept note to SAGEFundGrants@newventurefund.org by **14 December 2019**. Please make the subject heading of the email:
[Primary Applicant Organisation's Name]_SAGEFund_2020_WEJ_RFP

Questions regarding the RFP and concept notes can be directed to Daria Caliguire, Director, The SAGE Fund, and submitted via email to SAGEFundGrants@newventurefund.org

The SAGE Fund

The SAGE Fund – *Strengthening Accountability in the Global Economy* – is a collaborative fund that cultivates breakthroughs in human rights accountability for economic actors: spurring innovation in approaches and building greater field capacity in the human rights movement. The Fund works interactively with groups to pilot new tools and strategies that require more upfront design to increase their likelihood of success. We support multi-tiered partnerships between civil society organisations and affected communities to bring an array of skills, knowledge and leverage points.

The SAGE Fund (<http://www.sagefundrights.org/>) is a project of New Venture Fund, a 501(c)(3) organisation based in the United States.