

2024 Catalyst Fund Application Process

Network for Landscape Conservation (NLC)

Eligibility Screen

Please use this initial section as a self-administered eligibility screen. **If you answer "no" to any of these questions, you should not proceed with your application:** you will not be a strong fit with the Catalyst Fund and will not receive a grant award.

The Partnership seeking funding is place-based and working within a specific, defined landscape.*

Refer here to see what the Catalyst Fund considers to be place-based.

Choices

Yes

No

The proposal is for a long-term, enduring Partnership.*

A Partnership focused on achieving a specific, short-term project (e.g. to build a trail or complete a land deal) would answer "no" here.

Choices

Yes

No

The Partnership's purpose is to advance conservation and stewardship goals.*

Choices

Yes

No

The proposal is for investments in collaborative capacity.*

Requests for funding support for direct conservation project implementation [e.g. land acquisitions or stewardship costs] would answer "no" here.

Choices

Yes

No

Again, if you answered "no" to any of the above screening questions, you should not continue with a proposal as you will not be a strong fit with the Catalyst Fund and will not receive a grant award.

Tribal-led Partnership

Is this a proposal for an Tribal-led Partnership?*

A portion of the Catalyst Fund is dedicated to advancing Indigenous landscape conservation priorities by supporting collaborative efforts that emerge from and are supported by an Indigenous community(s). Is this a proposal that should be considered under this priority focus?

Choices

Yes

No

Letter of Support

REQUIRED ONLY IF A NON-INDIGENOUS APPLICANT IS SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF A TRIBAL-LED PARTNERSHIP

Attach a letter from a Tribe (or designated departments or offices), or from an organization that is governed and operated by Tribal or Indigenous communities/community members that affirms that the Partnership is being catalyzed by and emerging from the Tribal community.

File Size Limit: 2 MB

Partnership Information

Name of Landscape Partnership:*

Character Limit: 250

Year Launched (ex. 2008)*

Character Limit: 4

Landscape Partnership Website, if applicable:

Character Limit: 2000

What is the relationship of the applicant organization to the Landscape Partnership?

If your Landscape Partnership is not a registered 501(c)(3) organization and instead a 501(c)(3) partner organization is applying on behalf of the Partnership, clarify the relationship by selecting the best descriptor below:

Choices

The applicant is the lead convener of the Partnership.

The applicant is a partner organization within the Partnership.

The applicant is the formal fiscal sponsor organization but otherwise uninvolved in the Partnership.

Not applicable.

In which geographic region does this Partnership operate?*

Select the region that best fits, recognizing that some partnerships may cross these arbitrary boundaries; more than one region can be selected. View this map if you are unsure which region your landscape is located in.

Choices

Northeast: New England
Northeast: Middle Atlantic
South: South Atlantic
South: East South Central
South: West South Central
Midwest: East North Central
Midwest: West North Central
West: Mountain
West: Pacific

Size (in acres) of the Partnership's landscape?***Choices**

<500,000
500,000-999,999
1 million-5 million
6 million-10 million
11 million-50 million
51 million-100 million
>100 million

How often does the core group of partners within the Partnership meet?*

Please select the option that best matches your Partnership experience over the last year or 18 months, recognizing that many Partnerships may meet on differing schedules or with varying frequency.

Choices

Monthly
Quarterly
Annually
Less Frequently

How is the Partnership coordinated/staffed?***Choices**

A paid full-time (.76 or greater FTE) coordination position is staffed.
A paid part-time (.25-.75 FTE) coordination position is staffed.
A paid limited part-time (less than .25 FTE) coordination position is staffed.
Staff member(s) from partner organizations provide part-time, undedicated coordination support.
Community members or other individuals provide volunteer coordination support.
No coordination support is currently provided.

Grant Request

We are requesting:*

Choices

One year grant

Two year grant

Total grant amount requested:*

Not to exceed \$25,000.

Character Limit: 20

Approximate budget for your Partnership this year:*

Please do not provide the annual budget for the applicant organization (if organization is applying on behalf of a Partnership); instead provide an **estimate** for the core budget of the actual Partnership. We recognize the complexities of attempting to capture budget that reflects a Partner that brings together many partners (and sources of support); please do not spend time trying to make this exact and instead just provide an approximate core operating budget (inclusive of direct cash costs such as any staffing, convenings, contracts, etc).

Character Limit: 20

Proposal Narrative

As you consider your answers to the following questions, we encourage you to clearly convey how your Partnership reflects the Catalyst Fund's prioritized Partnership characteristics, and how a grant award will catalyze your Partnership at a critical point in its development, in ways that change the trajectory of conservation and stewardship outcomes on your landscape over the long term.

We request that each of the four narrative questions below be addressed in 500 words or fewer. There is a margin of buffer built into the character limits set below, as we don't believe spending extensive time editing slightly longer responses down to hit precise limits is productive or beneficial. However, we do ask that you be mindful of length here; your responses to the following four narrative questions should not exceed five pages in length in total.

Proposal Title*

Provide a brief title for your proposal.

Character Limit: 100

Proposal Purpose*

In one paragraph, succinctly summarize what the funding will enable you to accomplish and the impact that this will have on your Partnership's ability to achieve its conservation and

stewardship goals within your defined landscape. Not: this may be used in public descriptions of awarded grants.

Character Limit: 600

The Why—Tell us why your Landscape Partnership exists?*

Ground us briefly in the context of your landscape: Describe the general geographic bounds of your landscape (Where are you working?) and the natural and socio-cultural significance of this landscape (Why is it important?). Additionally, help us understand the shared purpose of your Partnership—what conservation and stewardship outcomes are partners coming together to work towards? We will be looking for a clear sense of the vision, mission, goals, and strategies of your Partnership.

Character Limit: 3750

The Who—Introduce us to your Landscape Partnership.*

We encourage you to share the story of who comprises your Partnership and how it operates. We're less interested in names of specific individuals/organizations and more interested in understanding the breadth and range of entities and interests represented.

Questions that may be helpful to consider here include: How often are partners meeting or communicating? How are decisions made? What does the leadership of the Partnership look like? (e.g., a lead convening and/or host organization(s)? A core leadership team, such as a steering committee? Are there working groups?) How has your Partnership grown or evolved over time? How do you ensure your efforts are community-grounded and centering a diversity of voices, including voices that have been historically marginalized and/or silenced?

This is not a definitive list of questions to answer one by one but rather is intended to orient you to the direction of our inquiry. Some of the above questions may not be relevant to your Partnership.

Character Limit: 3750

The What—Tell us what you propose to do with Catalyst Fund support.*

We want to understand what your Partnership plans to do with a grant award—What activities will you undertake to build the collaborative capacity of your Partnership? Please share a general work plan that grant funding would support, outlining specific Partnership-building activities and the resulting deliverables that you hope to pursue over the course of the grant period. (Note: in developing this work plan please recognize that the grant period would begin on or around September 1.)

Character Limit: 3750

Impact—Tell us how a Catalyst Fund grant accelerates your Partnership’s ability to achieve goals.*

We want to understand how the planned collaborative capacity investments will change the trajectory of your Partnership over the long term—How do the activities and deliverables identified above strengthen and accelerate the development of your Partnership? What will be the significance of this accelerated Partnership development on the landscape—How does a Catalyst Fund grant better position your Partnership to achieve its conservation and stewardship goals over the long term?

Character Limit: 3500

Peer Learning

Would a representative of your Partnership be able to participate in a peer learning cohort?*

The Catalyst Fund couples financial support with capacity-building support, and each funded Partnership will be invited to participate in a two-year Peer Learning cohort. Would a representative of your Partnership be able and willing to participate in the Peer Learning program?

Choices

Yes

No

Comment:

Character Limit: 700

Attachments

Proposal Budget*

Download the Catalyst Fund budget template, complete, and upload.

File Size Limit: 1 MB

Map of Partnership landscape (if available)

If available, upload a map of the Partnership boundary and the associated landscape. Note: If no map is available, this will not influence the evaluation of your proposal so please do not spend additional time here; only upload if you have something available at your fingertips.

File Size Limit: 10 MB

Partner List*

Provide a list (or upload a list) of the organizations and/or entities that are represented within your Partnership. If this list exists on a website, feel free to simply provide a link to the list.

Character Limit: 10000 / File Size Limit: 2 MB

Additional Materials

Our expectation is that nothing further will be needed for us to understand your proposal. However, if you feel an additional item (e.g. a strategic or conservation plan, a video, a storymap, etc.) is critical to conveying the story of your Partnership and how a Catalyst Fund grant award will accelerate your conversation efforts—beyond what is already captured in the narrative—you may upload it here. Because the evaluation process will primarily focus on your responses to the above narrative questions, we **STRONGLY** recommend that you only upload materials here if doing so is critical to advancing the concept of your proposal.

File Size Limit: 10 MB