

2025 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 purpose of the Partnership is to advance conservation and/or stewardship within the landscape.*

Choices

Yes

No

The proposal is for investments in the Partnership's collaborative capacity and long-term goals.*

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, are supported by, and are being led by Tribal government(s) and/or Indigenous organization(s) or 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 SUBMITTING 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 Tribal leadership on the Partnership and articulates how the Partnership is centering and prioritizing Tribal community(s) interests.

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 five 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 geography and context of your landscape - What are the geographic boundaries of your landscape, and what elements contribute to the significance of this landscape? Additionally, we want to understand the shared purpose of your Partnership - given the context of this landscape, 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 for your Partnership.

Character Limit: 3500

The Who—Introduce us to your Landscape Partnership.*

We encourage you to share the story of who comprises your Partnership. We're less interested in the naming of specific individuals/organizations and more interested in getting a clear sense of the breadth and range of entities and interests that are represented. We want to understand your Partnership's efforts to build understanding, connection, and meaningful engagement across difference, and how it is sharing or building power with those that have been historically marginalized, silenced, or excluded—in a way that contributes to a just and equitable future for your landscape.

Character Limit: 3000

The How - Introduce us to your Landscape Partnership's structure.

We want to understand how your Partnership operates. The types of questions that may be helpful to consider here include: How often are the partners meeting or communicating? How are decisions made? What does the leadership of the Partnership look like? (e.g. is there a lead convening and/or host organization(s)? Is there a core leadership team, such as a steering committee? Are there working groups?) How has your Partnership grown or evolved over time? (Note: 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 sample questions may not be relevant to your Partnership.)

Character Limit: 3000

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

We want to understand what your Partnership plans to do with the Catalyst Fund grant award: what activities will you undertake to build the collaborative capacity of your Partnership? Please share the work plan that grant funding would support, outlining specific Partnership-building activities, a general timeline, and the resulting deliverables/outcomes that you plan 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

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 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: 8 MB

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

OPTIONAL: Land and Climate Grant Program

Are you applying to the Land and Climate Grant Program?

For this 2025 grant cycle, Landscape Partnerships that are applying to the Catalyst Fund can simultaneously apply for additional support, of up to \$20,000, through the Land Trust Alliance's Land and Climate Grant Program to undertake climate-informed planning. Please indicate if you are applying for this additional support.

Note: To be eligible to secure a grant through the Land and Climate Grant Program, there must be a Land Trust Alliance member land trust involved in the Landscape Partnership, and this land trust will administer the grant on behalf of the Partnership. The land trust does not need to be the same organization that is the lead applicant on the Catalyst Fund grant proposal.

Choices

Yes

No

Land and Climate Grant Program Additional Questions

Applicant Name

Identify the Land Trust Alliance member land trust that will administer the Land and Climate Grant Program grant award on behalf of the Landscape Partnership. Note: this does not need to be the same organization that will be administering the Catalyst Fund grant award.

If a Land Trust Alliance member land trust is not engaged in your Partnership, please do not apply for this additional funding from the Land and Climate Grant Program as you will not be eligible to receive it.

Character Limit: 250

Project Summary

Briefly summarize your climate planning project. Include project goals, intended outcomes, the geography that will be addressed, and the importance of the project in addressing climate change.

Character Limit: 3500

Project Strategies and Methods

Briefly describe the strategies you will use to achieve your project goals and the methods that will be used to complete the project, including a timeline for key tasks and the science, data, or knowledge that will be used to ensure climate impacts are addressed.

Character Limit: 3500

Financial Summary

Download this project financial summary template, and then complete and attach. Indicating amount requested (up to a maximum of \$20,000) as well as total project costs with descriptions of use and anticipated funding sources.

File Size Limit: 1 MB