



**The Landscape Conservation Catalyst Fund
Request for Proposals for Indigenous Community Initiatives
March 15, 2019**

I. Overview

The purpose of the Landscape Conservation Catalyst Fund is to accelerate the pace and effective practice of place-based, collaborative landscape conservation across the United States. The Fund seeks to build capacity and forward momentum in landscape conservation partnerships by supporting the key activities and collaborative processes that move partnerships forward.

The Catalyst Fund is pleased to have a portion of the Fund dedicated to Indigenous-led partnerships that serve Indigenous communities working on landscape conservation. Indigenous collaboratives are often rich with qualities that embody and enhance landscape conservation—including a multigenerational approach, the use of traditional knowledge, the integration of other important societal issues (health, jobs, education, etc.), and a value system that prioritizes symbiotic health between the landscape and its inhabitants.

This Request for Proposals (“Indigenous Community RFP”) invites Indigenous-led partnerships focused on the long-term health of their ecological and/or cultural landscapes to apply for funding to the Catalyst Fund. This can include a partnership that is wholly on sovereign tribal lands; that includes adjoining lands due to the boundaries of an ecological landscape or other cultural/societal considerations; and/or that focuses on advancing and conserving indigenous/aboriginal interests, territories, and rights across a specific landscape.

Applicants may request a one- or two-year grant of \$10,000 - \$25,000. Pre-proposals are due on April 26th, and the complete 2019 grant cycle timeline is as follows:

| 2019 Activity | Date |
|---------------------------|---|
| RFP release | March 15 |
| Fund webinars | March 22 and 28 at 2 pm Eastern time |
| Pre-proposals due | April 26 |
| Pre-proposal decisions | June 3 |
| Full proposals due | July 1 |
| Catalyst grants announced | August 15 |

Please find below a description of partnerships that will qualify for funding and details on how to apply. Additional background on the Catalyst Fund and the General Catalyst Fund RFP can be found [here](#).

II. Eligibility Requirements

1. **Leadership and Decision-making:** The landscape conservation partnership should be Indigenous-led, serving a primarily Indigenous community.
2. **Nonprofit Status:** Grants can be awarded only in the 50 U.S. states, and only to non-profit organizations with approved IRS 501(c)(3) status.

NOTE: As many partnerships are informal collaboratives, we anticipate many eligible applicants will apply *on behalf of* a partnership because they are the fiscal sponsor organization of the partnership; the recognized lead convener of the partnership; or a recognized partner organization within the partnership. Other involved partners (e.g., tribal governments, public agencies, academic institutions, for-profit entities, and other non-profit organizations) may work on funded grant activities as paid contractors.

3. **Landscape Conservation Partnerships should include the key elements defined below:**
 - a) **Place-based:** A geographically explicit area of focus is defined and is sufficiently large in scale to encompass a diversity of landowner types, conservation issues, jurisdictions, and stakeholder interests. (Landscape conservation partnerships can occur in all types and mixes of landscapes, including urban, suburban, rural, working, wild, and combinations thereof.)
 - b) **Focused on a Shared, Long-term Vision:** The partnership has articulated a long-term vision for the health and vitality of the defined landscape, encompassing people and nature.
 - c) **Collaboratively Governed:** Although one organization may play a lead convening/coordination role, a formal or informal governance structure or decision-making policy fosters collaborative leadership and participatory engagement of the partners.
 - d) **Inclusive:** The partnership approach emphasizes inclusive outreach and dialogue with various stakeholders on the landscape, informed by multiple interests and perspectives.
 - e) **Informed:** A partnership is committed to building the shared foundation of knowledge necessary to achieve its goals; this can include utilization of ecological, cultural, traditional, and social information.

4. Applicants who do not represent a partnership that is “Indigenous-led, serving a primarily Indigenous community,” but meet all other Eligibility Requirements, are eligible to apply via the [General Catalyst Fund RFP here](#).

III. Fund Priorities

The Network for Landscape Conservation (NLC) seeks proposals that advance a collaborative landscape conservation partnership in specific, strategic ways. We are looking for proposals that clearly identify:

- the partnership’s conservation vision and goals;
- grant period objectives for building the partnership and advancing its conservation goals;
- proposed activity(s) that will best achieve those objectives; and
- how the grant will significantly advance partnership goals and catalyze forward momentum.

The Fund is looking for conservation partnerships that have been formed; where there is a record of commitment and convening; and where the participants have collaboratively crafted and approved a vision and goals statement for conserving the future health of the region. The Fund is looking for an indication that people have put in the time to build trust and commitment to working together to achieve the vision—and where funding will land on fertile ground and help move the partnership to the next stage.

Applicants may apply for funding for a specific, priority activity to advance the conservation objectives of the partnership, or they may apply for funds for convening and advancing the partnership more broadly (including funding to pay a coordinator for convening, strategic planning and other outreach and partnership-building)—as long as there is tangible justification for the proposed activities and how they are tied to advancing conservation objectives and building forward partnership momentum.

Please note that funding may not be used for:

- academic research or writing.
- capital campaigns or capital improvements.
- office equipment.
- acquisition of land or conservation easements.
- political lobbying.

IV. A Successful Indigenous Community Proposal to the Catalyst Fund

In addition to the Fund priorities above, a successful Indigenous Community proposal:

1. Emerges from the Indigenous community. Its purpose, design, and implementation strategy originate from the Indigenous peoples it serves.

2. Has a clearly articulated conservation goal.
3. Engenders leadership and decision-making that are vested directly in the community that will be impacted.
4. Promotes traditional knowledge and the cultural lifeways of the community in some way.
5. Builds capacity that not only advances conservation goals in the long term but also impacts the largest number of people and broadest segments of the society as is practicable.
6. Matching Funds: Matching Funds are not required for the Indigenous Community application, but proposals will be viewed favorably if they demonstrate 1) in-kind support from partners (time, meeting space, other); 2) additional funding from other sources; and/or 3) a strategy for leveraging a Catalyst Fund grant to attract new funding to the partnership over time.

V. How to Apply

The Catalyst Fund is currently accepting pre-proposals for one- or two-year grants of \$10,000-\$25,000. Although applicants are eligible to apply in future grant cycles, no grantee may receive more than \$25,000 total during the first three years of this Program.

Proposals are due April 26th at 9 pm Eastern time. If possible, please use our [online application system](#) to register your organization, fill out the pre-proposal form, and submit the required attachments. Alternatively, please contact to jonathan@landscapeconservation.org for instructions on how to submit your pre-proposal via email.

Please read the RFP carefully to ensure your project is a sound fit with the Catalyst Fund. All Catalyst Fund documents and background information can be found on our website: <http://landscapeconservation.org/catalyst-fund>. Catalyst Fund webinars will be held on [March 22nd](#) and [March 28th](#) at 2 pm Eastern time, and you may submit questions as part of the webinar registration process. Applicants may also contact [Jon Peterson](#) if they have questions after reading the Indigenous Community RFP. The subject line should read: "Question on Indigenous Community RFP."

VI. Grantee Expectations

Recipients of Catalyst Fund grants should expect and plan for the following:

1. *Peer exchange and support:* The field of collaborative landscape conservation is growing rapidly, and the people involved have much to learn from each other. Grantees should expect to join bi-monthly 60-minute calls or webinars with other grantees and to attend an annual in-person convening for peer exchange, information, and mutual inspiration (travel funding will be provided). NLC staff and leadership will also be available, as helpful, for

problem-solving discussions, providing background resources, and/or connecting grantees (as mentors or mentees) to other practitioners who wrestle with similar issues.

2. *Reporting:* Grantees will be asked to provide a short, mid-grant written report as well as a final written report. Grantees will document how the Catalyst Fund grant was spent and evaluate its impact.
3. *Long-term tracking:* Grantees will track progress for five years after the grant period by filling out a short annual survey for NLC.

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The Network for Landscape Conservation: Founded in 2011, the [Network for Landscape Conservation](#) (NLC or Network) connects people to ideas and innovations—and each other—to build a community of practice for the rapidly growing field of landscape conservation. NLC works with partners across sectors, cultures, and geographies to develop effective tools and strategies and to advance best practices and policies to help people safeguard the landscapes that enable people and all of nature to thrive. Our broad-based network today includes more than 150 organizational partners and 2,500 practitioners, fulfilling a unique purpose as an umbrella network and hub of activity to advance the practice of collaborative, place-based conservation at the necessary landscape scale. NLC is governed by a 34-person Coordinating Committee that is comprised of leaders from the nonprofit, private, public, academic, tribal, and philanthropic sectors across North America. The Network for Landscape Conservation is a fiscally sponsored project of the [Center for Large Landscape Conservation](#) in Bozeman, MT.