



LOUISIANA JUSTICE FUND COALITION & COLLABORATIVE ADVOCACY POWER GRANTS

About Foundation for Louisiana

Foundation for Louisiana (FFL) is a social justice philanthropic intermediary founded in 2005 as the Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation to invest in the immediate recovery of Louisiana's communities after hurricane Katrina. While FFL was founded in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, our founders recognized the need to address the longstanding inequities that have shaped life outcomes for the most marginalized of Louisianans. Our programs grew in response to these needs, and today FFL focuses on racial justice, climate justice, criminal justice reform, economic opportunity, LGBTQ organizing, and support for Louisiana's vibrant arts and culture via a three-pronged strategy:

- *Invest:* FFL makes grants and loans to support organizations and movements throughout Louisiana in our key program areas. We attract and invest resources to support on-the-ground projects, many of which can't access traditional philanthropy. Through fiscal sponsorship, we support innovative ideas responding to unmet needs throughout Louisiana.
- *Build:* We build power to effect change in Louisiana communities. Our TOGETHER initiative convenes community leaders and provides training in organizing, policy change, leadership, public speaking, and facilitation to tackle issues of climate change, police accountability, health disparities, housing access, and more.
- *Transform:* By fortifying movements, we shift systems and shape regional and national narratives. We re-imagine how our communities are governed and funded in order to redefine how residents are able to thrive in them.

Since its inception, FFL has invested \$60 million in more than 260 mission-critical nonprofit organizations working across the state towards building a more just Louisiana. As a social justice philanthropic intermediary, FFL's work unapologetically advances racial justice while moving Louisiana forward. The foundation engages communities in both program co-design as well as its grant-making process, in order to expand opportunities and move communities towards a more just future.

Overview of the Opportunity

The Louisiana Justice Fund (LJF) is a pooled fund housed at FFL that supports projects aimed at reducing incarceration rates, improving reentry outcomes, and dismantling barriers to economic mobility, particularly for individuals disproportionately represented in the criminal legal system. The Fund focuses on deploying resources strategically to drive change and create lasting impact. LJF values collaboration, capacity building, and strategic advocacy in its efforts to bring about

lasting change in Louisiana's criminal legal landscape. LJF aims to achieve this through strategic investments in north Louisiana, central Louisiana, southwest Louisiana, Greater New Orleans, and Greater Baton Rouge areas through three grantmaking goals: 1) **strengthen the ecosystem of criminal legal system reform organizations**, 2) **invest in organizations to shift narratives on safety, crime, and accountability**, and 3) **increase economic mobility for criminal legal system impacted folks**.

The Louisiana Justice Fund's (LJF) Coalition and Collaborative Advocacy Power grant supports Louisiana-based coalitions and organizations defending criminal legal system reforms and advancing policy and advocacy efforts to reduce incarceration rates, improve reentry outcomes, and eliminate barriers to economic mobility for criminal legal system impacted folks.

What the Grant Supports

- 1) **Coalitions** advancing systemic or structural criminal legal system reforms through strategic collaboration. Funded activities may include convening and strengthening multi-organization coalitions, developing shared policy agendas, mobilizing community voices and the voices of those with lived experience, and engaging in legislative or administrative advocacy. Priority will be given to initiatives that reduce incarceration, enhance reentry supports, and expand equitable access to economic opportunity for system-impacted folks and their families.
- 2) Organizations working to advance reforms within the criminal legal system through **collaborative advocacy**. Eligible strategies include joint policy campaigns, coordinated public education and narrative change efforts, shared research and data analysis, cross-sector partnerships that build community power, and others. Grants support initiatives that reduce incarceration rates, improve reentry outcomes, and eliminate barriers to economic mobility for individuals impacted by the criminal legal system.

Eligibility

Applicants must be based in north Louisiana, central Louisiana, or southwest Louisiana. Applicants based in the greater New Orleans and greater Baton Rouge areas are eligible if their work includes north, central, and/or southwest Louisiana communities.

Applicants must either have federal tax exempt/501(c)3 status or have a fiscal sponsor with federal tax exempt/501(c)3 status.

Applicants with leadership inclusive of system-impacted individuals or those from communities most affected by criminalization and incarceration are encouraged.

Selection Criteria

Applications for **Coalitions** advancing policy change will be assessed on the following criteria:

- **Coalition Structure and Governance**
 - Coalition must include at least three independent organizations with complementary expertise (e.g., advocacy, research, lived experience, direct service).
 - Must demonstrate shared decision-making structures and clear roles among partners.
 - Evidence of long-term partnership and trust-building, not just short-term or project-based collaboration.
- **Strategic Focus and Alignment**
 - Proposed work must advance systemic or structural reforms (policy, practice, or institutional change) rather than individual-level interventions.
 - Clear alignment with fund priorities:
 - Reducing incarceration
 - Expanding equitable reentry supports
 - Increasing access to economic opportunity for system-impacted individuals and families
 - Shifting narratives on crime, safety, justice and incarceration in Louisiana.
- **Community Engagement**
 - Strong demonstration of community voice and leadership, especially of those with lived experience.
 - Mechanisms for community leadership, consultation, co-creation, and feedback embedded in planning and implementation.
 - Commitment to narrative change that centers dignity, agency, and systemic accountability.
- **Advocacy Strategy and Impact**
 - Defined policy or advocacy goals that are specific, achievable, measurable, relevant, and time-bound.
 - Evidence of strategic collaboration (e.g., joint policy agendas, coordinated legislative or administrative advocacy).
 - Clear pathways to influence policy or practice, including identification of relevant decision-makers or processes.
 - Demonstrated potential for lasting structural impact, not just programmatic outcomes.
- **Organizational Capacity and Learning**
 - Capacity to manage multi-partner initiatives.
 - Commitment to evaluation and shared learning, including how coalition progress and community impact will be measured.
 - Plan for sustainability beyond the grant period, including leadership development and institutional strengthening.

Applications from organizations advancing reforms through **Collaborative Advocacy** will be assessed on the following criteria:

- **Strategic Collaboration**
 - Applicants must show active partnerships with other organizations, networks, or sectors (e.g., workforce, housing, health).
 - Clear articulation of shared goals and collective impact strategies.
 - Commitment to transparent communication, joint decision-making, and equitable resource sharing.
- **Approach and Activities**

Eligible activities may include:

 - Joint policy campaigns or legislative advocacy
 - Coordinated public education and narrative change initiatives
 - Shared research, data analysis, or storytelling projects
 - Cross-sector collaborations that strengthen community power and policy influence
- **Outcomes and Impact**
 - Proposed activities must contribute to:
 - Reducing incarceration rates
 - Improving reentry outcomes
 - Eliminating economic barriers for system-impacted individuals and their families
 - Applications should include clear metrics of success, such as policy wins, engagement levels, or shifts in public perception.
- **Organizational Learning and Accountability**
 - Plans for data collection, reflection, and adaptive strategy.
 - Commitment to transparency, equity, and accountability within partnerships and communities served.
 - Willingness to participate in peer learning cohorts or shared evaluation frameworks.

*Applications for **either Coalition or Collaborative Advocacy** will be reviewed.* However, Coalition applications proposing collaborative advocacy as part of the proposal are allowed.

All applicants will also be assessed on the following criteria:

- A clear explanation of how their organization approaches or would like to approach coalition building or collaborative advocacy for protecting existing or advancing new criminal legal system reforms statewide, regionally, or locally.
- A proven track record of engagement in criminal legal system reform, social justice organizing, or related policy advocacy, and readiness to engage in policy advocacy at local, state, or regional levels.
- Scalability of advocacy approaches.
- An easy-to-understand plan for the use of funds.
- Reflection on the alignment of their organizational mission and the proposed use of funds with [FFL values](#).
- Racial and economic justice orientation integrated throughout organizational mission and activities.
- Ethical storytelling and narrative integrity when representing impacted communities.

Grant Amounts

Up to eight (8) Louisiana-based organizations will be awarded up to \$100,000 each, and may be renewable for up to one year.

Timeline

- **October 24:** Application opens
- **November 12:** Informational webinar
- **December 5:** Applications due by 11:59 pm CT
- **January 5-30, 2026:** Review period
- **February 2, 2026:** Notification of award
- **February 9, 2026:** Anticipated grant start date

To Apply

We use Submittable to accept and review our submissions. Please access the application [here](#).

This application has five sections:

1. Contact Information & Organization Overview
2. Narrative
3. Budget
4. Supporting Documents
5. Project Support

More Information

A FAQ with more information about eligibility and applying can be found [here](#).

Resources and support for using our online application portal Submittable is available [here](#).

Questions about this opportunity, eligibility, or how to prepare your application materials?
Other questions or concerns? Email us at lifsupport@foundationforlouisiana.org.

Want to learn more about how our application has been designed to be inclusive of Louisianans with disabilities? Learn more [here](#). To discuss accommodations, please contact Jamie Schmill at jschmill@foundationforlouisiana.org or call us at (225)383-1672. Please refrain from calling or emailing except to discuss accommodations.

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**For more information about Foundation for Louisiana visit our website at
www.foundationforlouisiana.org**