Welcome to the Justice40 Accelerator Application!

Communities at the frontlines of climate, environmental, and social injustices have the wisdom and the solutions to create transformational change. Historic structural racism and bureaucratic inadequacies have often led to a lack of access to the capacity and resources needed to implement their community-driven solutions. With the Biden-Harris Administration’s Justice40 commitment and the unprecedented public funding flowing from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Act, the Inflation Reduction Act, and other federal initiatives, the Justice40 Accelerator aims for organizations from under invested communities to be informed, inspired, and equipped to navigate the public funding space so that public money can flow to communities who need it.

The Justice40 Accelerator will provide information, resources, and technical assistance to frontline community organizations in order to help navigate public funding (local/state/federal) requirements and competitive application processes to support environmental and climate-related work, including projects that address climate change, clean energy and energy efficiency, clean transit, affordable and sustainable housing, training and workforce development, remediation and reduction of legacy pollution, agriculture and food systems, and the development of critical clean water and wastewater infrastructure.

Read more about Justice40 covered program definitions here.

To begin your application, click on the "Submit Application" button below.
Questions?

Please read through our FAQs, found on the Justice40 Accelerator website here. If you still have questions after reading the FAQs, please don’t hesitate to contact us. For questions about the J40 Accelerator, eligibility, and application questions, please contact the J40 Accelerator team at J40Application@psequity.org. For technical questions relating to the Submittable platform, see this Help Center webpage.

Cohort 3 Justice40 Accelerator

The Justice40 Accelerator supports Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) led non-profits, non-governmental organizations, and fiscally sponsored initiatives working at the frontlines of environmental crises and advancing community-driven climate solutions.

We are looking for applications from groups that:

1) Have identified a project that addresses Justice40 Initiative covered programs (climate change resilient infrastructure, clean energy and energy efficiency, clean transportation, affordable and sustainable housing, the remediation and reduction of legacy pollution, critical clean water and waste infrastructure, and training and workforce development related to any of the preceding areas);
2) Have majority BIPOC leadership and serve BIPOC-majority communities;
3) Have the ability and interest to participate in one year of Accelerator offerings, from October 2023 to September 2024; and,
4) Have interest and intent to apply, with Accelerator assistance, for public funds during that time.

If you fit this criteria, we encourage you to apply!

Eligibility

Nonprofits and tribal-serving organizations with 501(c)(3) status, fiscally sponsored projects, and cooperatives based in the US, including sovereign lands located within the US and its territories, are eligible to apply. Projects should have a majority of BIPOC leadership reflective of the communities it serves and have a project identified for which you want to pursue public funding in the next 6-9 months.

Ineligible to apply to the Accelerator are:

- Higher Education Institutions
- Public Housing Organizations
- Non-profit Organizations that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS or a fiscal sponsor
- Tribal Governments
- For-Profit Organizations
- Small Businesses
- Individuals
- Applicants outside of the U.S. or U.S. Territories
Screening Questions

In order to start your application, we ask that you confirm the following about your organization. If you are applying as a coalition or association of organizations or as a fiscally sponsored project, please respond to these statements as the lead organization participating in the Accelerator. You will have the option to explain any responses to the screening questions (e.g. adding clarification or context) within the application.

Is your organization/group based in the U.S. or in a U.S. territory?*

Yes
No

Are members of your team (or at least one member) able to fully participate^ in the Accelerator?*

^We ask that at least one person who has decision-making or development responsibilities commit to attending relevant offerings. We are estimating an average of 1-2 hours per week on Accelerator offerings from October 2023 - September 2024 (with a break over the winter holiday period). Expect participation hours to increase as you prepare and apply for a public grant.

Yes
No

Is your organization or group interested in applying for public funds (e.g. federal, state, local government funding) for an identified project in the next 6-12 months, understanding that external support may be required for readiness?*

We understand organizations may not know what might be required in order for them to qualify for public funding, but we believe that those organizations that have a legal or ethical reason for not wanting or being able to receive public funding are not a good fit for the Accelerator at this time.

Yes
No

Is your leadership majority BIPOC^-led?*

^BIPOC stands for Black, Indigenous, people of color. Majority is greater than 50% of executive and director level staff. For fiscally sponsored projects this applies to your project staff, not that of the fiscal sponsor.

Yes
No

Does your organization or group serve BIPOC^-majority communities, populations, or organizations?*

BIPOC^ stands for Black, Indigenous, people of color. Majority is greater than 50%.

Yes
No
Application Instructions

Welcome to the Cohort 3 Justice40 Accelerator application!

We understand that projects may be in various stages of development so we ask that applicants evaluate their responses to the following questions based on current conditions of your organization and project readiness in order to access appropriate and relevant Accelerator offerings.

Please answer all the application questions to the extent possible. Brevity is appreciated and answering in bullet points and / or short phrases is acceptable. Please also feel free to use responses that were used for other applications or purposes. Word count limits are there to provide as much space as possible where elaboration is needed - they are not intended to be a guide of expected response length.

Once you begin work in the application, there is a button at the bottom to save and resume your application at a later time. Once you save, you can log out or leave the page without losing your work.

The estimated time to complete the application is two hours. Applications are due no later than **11:59 PM EST on July 31st**. Applications will not be accepted after the deadline. Applicants will be notified in September if they are being invited to join the Cohort 3 Accelerator.

If you have any questions while completing the application, please contact us at J40Application@psequity.org. For technical questions relating to the Submittable platform, please refer to this Submittable Help webpage. Thank you for your interest in the Justice40 Accelerator!

**ORGANIZATION / GROUP INFORMATION**

First Name of Contact for Application*

Last Name of Contact for Application*

Title of Contact for Application*

Email Address of Contact for Application*

Applicant Organization/Group Name*

**Organization/Group Type:**

- Nonprofit / NGO
- Fiscally Sponsored Project of 501(c)3
- Indian Tribe or Tribal Organization
- Cooperative

If your group/organization is fiscally sponsored, list the name of your Fiscal Sponsor:
Website of Group/Organization (If you do not have a website please list any social media handles, or write in “Do not have” if your group/organization does not have a website or social media accounts.)*

Group/Organization Mission* Limit: 200 words
If you are applying as a coalition or collaboration please share the purpose of your partnership for the shared project or the project-specific mission.

What is your current organizational budget? If applying to the Accelerator as a collaboration or coalition please list the budget range of the group who would most likely lead on a public grant application.*

- $0 - 50,000
- $50,001 - 100,000
- $100,001 - 250,000
- $250,001 - 500,000
- $500,001 - 1,000,000
- $1,000,001 - 1,500,000
- $1,500,001 - 4,999,999
- >$5 million

PROJECT INFORMATION
1. Describe the proposed or existing project or program for which your organization/group is seeking public funding (including federal, state and local government funding).* Limit: 800 words

2. If you have identified potential public funding sources to support this project/program, please share those here. Limit: 400 words

3. Region(s) that your proposed or existing project/program is located in and serves. Select all that apply. (You will have an opportunity to share more details about the community your project serves below.)*
   - Midwest (IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, SD, WI)
   - New England (CT, RI, MA, ME, NH, VT)
   - Mid-Atlantic (DE, MD, NJ, NY, PA)
   - Southeast (AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, WV)
   - Southwest (AZ, NM, OK, TX)
   - West (AK, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY)
   - U.S. Territories (Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, District of Columbia)
4. Which of the following Justice40 Initiative focus areas does your project/program address? How would you best describe the focus of the project/program you've identified? Please select all those that apply.*
   o Climate change resilient infrastructure
   o Clean energy and energy efficiency
   o Clean transportation
   o Affordable and sustainable housing
   o Agriculture and food systems
   o Remediation and reduction of legacy pollution
   o Critical clean water
   o Waste infrastructure
   o Training and workforce development related to any of the preceding areas

5. How would you characterize the phase of development that your project/program is in currently?*
   o Assessment phase: We are scoping, researching, or conducting engagement and assessment of what is needed, partnerships, and overall project design
   o Pre Project Development phase: We have an identified project and are developing the scope and pre-design work or have a comprehensive proposal, timeline and budget
   o Implementation phase: We have a developed proposal, have secured any needed permissions and/or permits to proceed and are ready to start the project/program once we secure needed resources
   o Scaling and Expansion phase: We have an established program or project and we are looking for resources, partners, and/or opportunities to scale it to new capacity and/or locations
   o Learning & Evaluation phase: We have an established project or program that is producing results and we want resourcing to complete evaluation and research either to disseminate learnings and/or replicate the model

6. Describe the community or population your project/program serves. What is your organization’s or group's history and current relationship with this community? Please be as specific as possible including relevant socioeconomic and demographic data, historical, and regional contexts.* Limit: 400 words

7. Please select the description below that best describes how your organization/group has developed the project or historically been engaged and accountable to the community you serve.*
   o We are providing the community with relevant information about our project.
   o We have gathered input from the community about the project.
   o We have ensured community needs and assets are integrated into the process and inform planning.
   o We have ensured community capacity to play a leadership role in implementation of decisions.
   o We have fostered democratic participation and equity by bridging the divide between community and governance, through community-driven decision-making
8. How would you describe your existing relationships with local partners as it pertains to the project/program you have in mind, which could include local government, community-based organizations, social services, local chapters of regional or national organizations, and academic institutions. Please be as specific as possible (including who and what the role of your partners are in the project/program).* Limit: 400 words

9. What is the estimated total budget for your project?*
The total project budget should include all of the estimated expenses for the project, not just the portion for which you are seeking public funds.
- $0 - 50,000
- $50,001 - 100,000
- $100,001 - 250,000
- $250,001 - 500,000
- $500,001 - 1,000,000
- $1,000,001 - 1,500,000
- $1,500,001 - 5,000,000
- >$5,000,000
- Unsure at this time

10. For the following three questions, please share the capacity or systems you currently have in place related to eligibility to apply for public funding (federal, state, local) and management of public funds.
This could either be internal or through a fiscal sponsor or formal partnership providing this capacity.

None of these capacities are required for applying or being accepted into the Accelerator. And if you don’t recognize any of the below terms, don’t worry! Your response will help us understand the types of technical assistance that would be of value and how to plan for Accelerator offerings.

10a. What Federal Registrations do you currently have in place? Select all that apply.
- Active Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)
- Grants.gov account
- Sam.gov account
- Federal negotiated indirect rate
- Unsure (e.g. may have had one or more of these in the past but may be expired)

10b. Which of these staff capacities do you currently have? Select all that apply.
- Dedicated grant writer
- Dedicated finance and accounting team
- Our financial management system tracks federal and match funds by source and application, and our finance staff is experienced in how to use the system to track federal funds
- Dedicated grant management staff role to track and report on grant deliverables
- We plan to hire qualified staff to manage a government grant
- Access to legal counsel
- Our policies and procedures address federal award management requirements, including procurement, internal controls, financial reporting, subawards, and subgrantee monitoring and oversight
10c. What if any Business Registrations do you currently have? Select all that apply.
   o Minority-owned business certification
   o Small Business Registration, including but not limited to: Historically Underutilized Business Zones Small Business, Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business, or Woman-Owned Small Business
   o Unsure

11. Is there any other information about capacity or eligibility to apply for public funds or contracts you would like to share? Limit: 400 words

12. Is there anything else you would like to share, either related to the responses to the screening questions, or about your organization and/or proposed project/program for which you are seeking Accelerator support? Limit: 400 words

Please review your application to make sure it's finalized, and then click "Submit Application" to submit it. Once submitted, you will not be able to make any changes. You will receive a confirmation email once submitted.