

Funding Sources for Social Impact

Second Quarter 2025

Are you a nonprofit, social enterprise, or government agency looking for funding to support impactful projects? Finding the right grants and funding sources can be challenging, but we've done the work for you. This guide highlights 10 key funding opportunities designed to support social impact initiatives, from community development and education to healthcare and sustainability.

These grant and funding sources provide essential financial support for social impact initiatives. By leveraging these resources, organizations can create and sustain meaningful changes that improve lives and communities around the world. Whether you're working on a local or global scale, connecting with these foundations and agencies can help turn your vision into reality.

Deadlines Approaching

Impact Fund Grants

The Impact Fund was founded in December 1992, with a mission to provide grants, advocacy, and education to support impact litigation on behalf of communities seeking economic, environmental, racial, and social justice.

- **Funding Focus:** Legal support for social justice cases, including human rights, environmental justice, and poverty law.
- **Eligibility:** Nonprofit legal organizations and private attorneys seeking funding for public interest cases.
- **Grant Amounts:** Typically, up to \$25,000.
- **Application Deadlines:**
 - Letter of Interest (LOI): **April 1, 2025**
 - Full Application: **May 1, 2025**
- **How to Apply:** Submit an LOI through the [Impact Fund's application portal](#).

The J.M.K. Innovation Prize

The J.M.K. Innovation Prize seeks to identify and support bold problem-solvers leading transformative, early-stage projects in the fields of heritage conservation, the environment, and social justice.

- **Funding Focus:** Early-stage projects in the fields of heritage conservation, the environment, and social justice.
- **Eligibility:** Nonprofit and mission-driven for-profit organizations with innovative solutions addressing societal challenges.
- **Grant Amounts:** \$150,000 over three years, plus \$25,000 in technical assistance funds.
- **Application Deadline:** **April 25, 2025**
- **How to Apply:** Start your application on the [J.M. Kaplan Fund website](#).

A.J. Muste Memorial Institute's Social Justice Fund

The Muste Foundation provides grants, sponsorships, and educational resources to hundreds of grassroots projects around the world. We fund innovative organizing, often with seed funds that give a necessary boost to bold ideas.

- **Funding Focus:** Grassroots activist projects focused on social change and systemic reform.
- **Eligibility:** Small organizations with limited access to traditional funding, prioritizing new projects or emerging organizations.
- **Grant Amounts:** Up to \$5,000.
- **Application Deadline:** **April 21, 2025**
- **How to Apply:** Review application guidelines and submit proposals via the [A.J. Muste Memorial Institute](#).

UCLA Social Impact Collaborative Grants

The Center for Community Engagement creates opportunities for UCLA faculty, students, and staff to collaborate with community partners to build an equitable and just society through community-engaged research, teaching and community programs.

- **Funding Focus:** Community-engaged research addressing social inequities in Los Angeles.
- **Eligibility:** Collaborative teams involving UCLA faculty and community partners.
- **Grant Amounts:** Exploratory Grants up to \$10,000; Seed Grants up to \$50,000; Transformative Grants up to \$250,000 over two years.
- **Application Deadlines:**
 - Statement of Intent to Apply: **March 15, 2025**
 - Full Proposal: **April 15, 2025**
- **How to Apply:** Submit applications through the [UCLA Center for Community Engagement](#).

Paul M. Angell Family Foundation Grants

The Paul M. Angell Family Foundation makes grants in three priority areas: Conservation, Performing Arts and Social Impact.

- **Funding Focus:** Conservation, performing arts, and social impact initiatives.
- **Eligibility:** Nonprofit organizations with projects aligning with the foundation's focus areas.
- **Grant Amounts:** Varies based on project scope and need.
- **Application Deadlines:**
 - Letters of Inquiry (LOI) for Performing Arts and Social Impact: **May 23, 2025**
 - Full Applications: **August 1, 2025** (for approved LOIs)
- **How to Apply:** Begin the application process on April 21, 2025, via the [Paul M. Angell Family Foundation](#).

Other Top Funding Sources

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is among the largest private foundations globally. It offers grants in various areas, including education, health, and poverty alleviation. Their Global Health Division, for instance, supports initiatives aimed at reducing health inequities by developing new tools and strategies.

- **Funding Focus:** Global health, poverty reduction, and education
- **Eligibility:** Nonprofits and academic institutions
- **Grant Amounts:** Varies by initiative
- **How to Apply:** Explore funding opportunities at [Gates Foundation](#).

Ford Foundation

The Ford Foundation focuses on social justice and human welfare. They provide funding across a range of areas such as economic fairness, education, gender, racial justice, and civic engagement. Their grant programs are designed to address systemic inequality and promote human dignity.

- **Funding Focus:** Social justice, human rights, and economic equity
- **Eligibility:** Nonprofits and social enterprises
- **Grant Amounts:** Varies based on project
- **How to Apply:** Visit [Ford Foundation](#) and submit a letter of inquiry.

Rockefeller Foundation

The Rockefeller Foundation has a long history of philanthropic work. They offer grants to innovative projects that contribute to sustainable development, health, food security, and resilience to climate change. Their goal is to promote the well-being of humanity worldwide.

- **Funding Focus:** Economic opportunity, health, food security, climate resilience
- **Eligibility:** Nonprofits and research institutions
- **Grant Amounts:** Varies
- **How to Apply:** Check their funding opportunities at [Rockefeller Foundation](#).

Open Society Foundations

Founded by George Soros, Open Society Foundations support a wide array of initiatives aimed at fostering open societies. They fund projects that promote human rights, economic enhancement, and democratic governance. They operate in more than 120 countries around the world.

- **Funding Focus:** Democracy, human rights, justice, and education
- **Eligibility:** Nonprofits and social movements
- **Grant Amounts:** Varies
- **How to Apply:** Explore funding at [Open Society Foundations](#).

The Skoll Foundation

The Skoll Foundation invests in social entrepreneurs and their innovative approaches to solving critical social issues. They provide funding through the Skoll Awards for Social Entrepreneurship, supporting leaders whose work has the potential for large-scale impact.

- **Funding Focus:** Social entrepreneurship and large-scale change
- **Eligibility:** Social entrepreneurs and organizations
- **Grant Amounts:** Typically between \$1 million and \$5 million
- **How to Apply:** Learn more at [Skoll Foundation](#).

Kresge Foundation

The Kresge Foundation is a private, national foundation that works to expand equity and opportunities in America's cities through grantmaking and social investing in arts and culture, education, environment, health, human services and community development. They help create pathways for people with low incomes to improve their life circumstances and join the economic mainstream.

- **Funding Focus:** Health, education, and economic development
- **Eligibility:** Nonprofits with measurable impact goals
- **Grant Amounts:** Typically up to \$1 million
- **How to Apply:** Visit [Kresge Foundation](#) for application guidelines.

MacArthur Foundation

The MacArthur Foundation supports creative people, effective institutions, and influential networks building a more just, verdant, and peaceful world. Their grantmaking includes areas like climate solutions, criminal justice reform, and nuclear challenges.

- **Funding Focus:** Large-scale solutions to critical social problems
- **Eligibility:** Nonprofits and collaborations
- **Grant Amounts:** Up to \$100 million
- **How to Apply:** Applications open periodically on [MacArthur Foundation](#).

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation provides grants to nonprofit organizations that work on improving the lives of children, families, and communities. They focus on conservation, health, and population, seeking initiatives that create a lasting impact on society and the environment.

- **Funding Focus:** Conservation, children's health, and reproductive rights
- **Eligibility:** Nonprofits and research organizations
- **Grant Amounts:** Varies
- **How to Apply:** Visit [Packard Foundation](#) for details.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation

The Annie E. Casey Foundation is dedicated to improving the well-being of American children and families. They fund programs that help children succeed academically, support economic opportunity, and strengthen families. Their work is aimed at creating brighter futures for all children.

- **Funding Focus:** Child welfare, juvenile justice, and economic opportunity
- **Eligibility:** Nonprofits and community programs
- **Grant Amounts:** Varies
- **How to Apply:** Visit [Annie E. Casey Foundation](#) for funding opportunities.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is the largest philanthropy in the United States dedicated solely to health. They provide grants focused on improving health and healthcare for everyone. Their initiatives address pressing health issues, including health equity, healthcare innovation, and public health systems.

- **Funding Focus:** Public health, health equity, and healthcare innovation
- **Eligibility:** Nonprofits, community organizations, and researchers
- **Grant Amounts:** Typically between \$50,000 and \$500,000
- **How to Apply:** Visit [RWJF](#) to browse open calls for proposals.

USAID (U.S. Agency for International Development)

USAID offers funding for international development projects that improve global health, foster economic growth, and enhance education. They work with various partners, including NGOs, governments, and private sectors, to implement programs that address critical global challenges.

- **Funding Focus:** Global development, humanitarian aid, economic growth
- **Eligibility:** NGOs, nonprofits, research institutions, and businesses
- **Grant Amounts:** Varies by program
- **How to Apply:** Explore funding opportunities at [USAID](#).

Echoing Green Fellowship and Seed Funding

Echoing Green discovers emerging social entrepreneurs and invests deeply in the growth of their idea and leadership. For over 35 years, they've built a broad, dynamic ecosystem to support these leaders as they solve the world's biggest problems.

- **Funding Focus:** Early-stage social enterprises
- **Eligibility:** Individuals and startups tackling social issues
- **Grant Amounts:** Up to \$90,000 in stipends and funding
- **How to Apply:** Learn more at [Echoing Green](#).

Google.org Impact Challenge

Google.org is a program that uses Google's vast resources to support underserved communities. They do this by providing funding, technical expertise, and innovation.

- **Funding Focus:** Technology-driven social impact solutions
- **Eligibility:** Nonprofits and social enterprises
- **Grant Amounts:** Typically, between \$250,000 and \$1 million
- **How to Apply:** Submit proposals when applications open at [Google.org](https://www.google.org).

HUD Community Development Block Grants

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program provides annual grants on a formula basis to states, cities, and counties to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income people.

- **Funding Focus:** Affordable housing, job creation, infrastructure development
- **Eligibility:** Local governments, nonprofits
- **Grant Amounts:** Varies based on community needs
- **How to Apply:** Find opportunities at [HUD CDBG](https://www.hud.gov/cdbg).

U.S. EDA Grants

The U.S. Economic Development Administration's investment policy is designed to establish a foundation for sustainable job growth and the building of durable regional economies throughout the United States. This foundation builds upon two key economic drivers - innovation and regional collaboration.

- **Funding Focus:** Economic development, innovation, and job creation
- **Eligibility:** State and local governments, nonprofits, educational institutions
- **Grant Amounts:** Typically, between \$100,000 and \$3 million
- **How to Apply:** Visit [EDA.gov](https://www.eda.gov) for open solicitations.

Next Steps: Get the Funding You Need

Securing funding for your social impact initiative starts with finding the right opportunities and crafting a compelling grant application. At [Spera Connect](#), we help organizations like yours identify funding sources, structure proposals, and maximize impact.

- ◆ **Want More Resources?** Subscribe to our newsletter for the latest funding opportunities and social impact insights.
- ◆ **Need Help Applying?** Contact us for personalized grant strategy support.

 **Let's turn your vision into reality!**