



TOGETHER WOMEN RISE

Collective action for global gender equality

Transformation Partnerships -- Principles and Criteria

Advancing Systemic Change for Gender Equality

February 2022

Introduction & Principles

Together Women Rise is a powerful community of women and allies dedicated to achieving global gender equality. We have hundreds of local chapters across the U.S. where our members meet monthly, learn about gender equality issues, and donate to Together Women Rise, allowing us collectively to support grassroots organizations around the globe which empower women and girls. To date, our funding has been focused on organizations delivering direct services to women and girls.

But we know that pursuing global gender equality requires systems change, not just direct services. Women exist in patriarchal societies: societies created by, designed for, and benefiting men. We are creating a new program -- **Transformation Partnerships** - - intended to change root causes -- transform beliefs, practices and laws, so that women have equal access to resources, decision-making power and opportunity.

Together Women Rise seeks to work with partner organizations in a participatory model, with shared decision making, learning and flexibility to adapt and grow over time to achieve long-term goals. RISE understands that systems change is a long-term undertaking and iterative process; we seek trust-based partnerships.

We will offer two types of grants: **Initial Grants** are designed to give grantees and RISE an opportunity to get to know one another, learn together, define goals and plan a change strategy. **Implementation Grants** will offer multi-year funding to implement a change strategy or launch and test a pilot intervention.

Initial Grants (\$35,000 for 6 months) are designed to give grantees and Together Women Rise an opportunity to get to know one another, learn together, define goals, and plan a change strategy.

Implementation Grants offer multi-year funding (\$50,000 - \$100,000 per year) to implement a change strategy or launch and test a pilot intervention.

Initial Grants

Criteria

RISE will approach possible partners rather than solicit applications. We are looking for stable organizations with deep understanding of the political and socio-economic issues in the country in which they work. Organizations should have a track record or a deep interest in systems change work, and a willingness



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to work collaboratively with us. Grantees must also meet the criteria for Transformation Partnerships outlined below.

Selection Process

- RISE will approach potential partners to gauge interest.
- If the organization is interested, we will schedule an introductory meeting. It is critical that the right people from both sides attend to be able to productively advance the conversation. We ask that potential partners come to the meeting ready to talk about new systems change ideas – not fleshed out proposals or programs, but areas where they see a need and have institutional experience and knowledge.
- After both organizations confer internally, there will be a follow-up meeting to determine if there is a possible fit and continue the dialogue if appropriate.
- Based on these discussions, Rise will select organizations for initial grants.

Initial Phase

The goal of the initial phase is to for the organizations to get to know one another and determine whether there is an opportunity for Rise to make an investment in systems change work.

Initial grants will be up to \$35,000 for up to six months. The amount and timeframe will be determined via discussion between the two organizations about the time and resources needed by the potential partner. Funds may be used for staff time, consultants, publications, research, travel and related activities. This may include:

- Develop, refine or advance a strategy or plan to address root causes of gender inequality
- Consult with private sector and government agencies to plan partnerships
- Develop and test a theory of change to achieve gender equality
- Define deliverables and metrics associated with a strategy or plan
- Develop a plan to grow organizational capacity needed to implement a plan

RISE is open to other uses for initial grant, and will be flexible about the best approach for the issue, history and circumstances.

Transformation Partnerships Criteria

- Grantee must have a vision, mission, and goals centered on gender equality.
- Grantee must have a US 501(c)(3) IRS designation or have a fiscal sponsor which has a US 501(c)(3) designation.
- If using a fiscal sponsor, the relationship must be of at least twelve months' standing.
- Grantee must have a minimum of at least 3 years of experience working in communities in the Global South.



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- Grantee or fiscal sponsor must have \$100,000 in annual revenue for the last 2 years, and must provide Form 990 or Form 990 EZ for the two most recent years.
- Grantee must demonstrate fiscally responsible practices.
- Grantee must be stable and have a strong governance structure.
- Grantee or fiscal sponsor must have an active website, preferably in English.
- Grantees with a majority of women board members and senior leadership are preferred. (I also noticed that leadership was spelled incorrectly on this line)
- Grantees must meet Rise policies (religious proselytizing, anti-oppression, etc.)

Together Women Rise will *not* fund:

- Organizations with political affiliations
- Organizations with religious affiliations
- Individuals
- Membership Campaigns
- Major building projects, land purchases, and large capital expenditures.