



# TOGETHER WOMEN RISE

Collective action for global gender equality

## Together Women Rise Featured Grants Program Applicant FAQs

### APPLICATION PROCESS AND TIMELINE

#### How do I apply for a Together Women Rise grant?

Please visit [our website](#) and click on the “Apply for a Grant” tab. When our application cycle is open, you will find the application link there.

#### When does the application period open and close?

The 2026 application cycle – for grants to be awarded in 2027 -- opens on May 5, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. ET. The deadline to apply is June 5, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. ET.

#### How many grants are awarded each year and what is the grant amount?

Together Women Rise awards at least 12 Featured Grants each year. Grants range from \$35,000 to \$50,000 and are paid over two years.

#### How are grant payments distributed?

Payments are made as follows:

- 60% within the first year
- 30% after the first year and submission of the interim report
- 10% after the final year and submission of the final report

#### When will we know if we are selected?

Selected organizations are notified in November 2026. Non-selected applicants are notified in November and December 2026.

### GEOGRAPHIC ELIGIBILITY

#### What regions are eligible for funding?

We fund projects in low-income and marginalized communities in the Global South. The **Global South** generally refers to regions such as Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, much of Asia (excluding Israel, Japan, and South Korea), and parts of Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand). Many countries in these areas face ongoing development challenges, including lower average incomes, higher poverty rates, rapid population growth, and limited access to housing, education, healthcare, and infrastructure.

#### What countries are included in the Global South?

This includes many countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, and parts of the Middle East.

#### Are countries in Europe eligible?

No. Europe, including Eastern Europe and Russia, is not eligible.



# TOGETHER WOMEN RISE

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## **Are high-income countries eligible?**

Generally, no. High-income countries are not eligible.

## **Does eligibility depend on where the organization is registered?**

No. Eligibility is based on where the project is implemented. We do not fund projects in the United States or in countries subject to U.S. sanctions.

## **U.S. 501(c)(3) AND FISCAL SPONSORSHIP REQUIREMENT**

### **Do we need to be a U.S.-registered nonprofit?**

Yes, or you must apply with a U.S.-based fiscal sponsor that is a 501(c)(3).

### **Can international organizations apply?**

Yes, if they apply through a U.S. fiscal sponsor.

### **Can we apply without a fiscal sponsor?**

No, unless you are a U.S. 501(c)(3) organization.

### **What is a fiscal sponsor?**

A fiscal sponsor is a U.S. nonprofit that provides legal and financial oversight and assumes responsibility for the grant.

### **Do we need an existing relationship with the fiscal sponsor?**

Yes. The relationship must be at least 12 months old.

### **Can Together Women Rise help us find a fiscal sponsor?**

No, we do not match organizations with fiscal sponsors. [Please see this link](#) for more information on fiscal sponsors, including [a directory](#) to explore a list of fiscal sponsors

### **Is an IRS equivalency determination (ED) accepted? Can this replace the requirement to be registered as a U.S. 501(c)(3)?**

No. ED alone is not sufficient.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL ELIGIBILITY**

### **How many years of experience are required?**

Organizations must have at least three years of on-the-ground operations.

### **Can newly registered organizations apply?**

Only if they can demonstrate three years of operational experience in the Global South.

### **What is the minimum budget requirement?**

Organizations must have at least \$100,000 in annual operating expenses.

### **Do we need to be legally registered?**

Yes, either as a U.S. 501(c)(3) organization or through a U.S. fiscal sponsor that is a U.S. 501(c)(3) organization. We do not accept IRS equivalency determinations.



# TOGETHER WOMEN RISE

**My organization previously received a Together Women Rise Featured Grant. Are we eligible to apply for and receive another grant?**

Yes, but organizations may receive no more than one Featured Grant per four-year period, and it must have satisfied all of Rise's reporting requirements for the past grant.

## WOMEN-LED REQUIREMENT

**What does “women-led” mean?**

Women must make up at least 50% of the organization's leadership.

**Does this include the board and staff?**

No, only board and executive leadership.

**Can men be in leadership roles?**

Yes, but women must make up at least 50% of the organization's leadership.

## GRANT SCOPE AND WHAT WE FUND

**What types of projects are funded?**

We fund new programs, expansion of existing programs, and capacity building.

**Do you fund existing programs?**

Yes, if the funding expands or strengthens the program.

**Can funding support monitoring and evaluation (M&E)?**

Yes.

**Do you fund general operating costs?**

No.

**Do you fund political or lobbying activities?**

No.

## BUDGET AND FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

**What financial documents are required?**

Applicants must provide an organizational budget, project/program budget and most recent & previous IRS Form 990 (or fiscal sponsor's).

**What do reviewers look for in budgets?**

Reviewers assess:

- Financial transparency
- Alignment between budget and proposed activities
- Organizational stability and financial health

**Should budgets be submitted in U.S. dollars?**

Yes. All budgets must be submitted in U.S. dollars.



# TOGETHER WOMEN RISE

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## **Do you fund unrestricted grants?**

No.

## **Are there projects or purposes that Together Women Rise does NOT fund?**

We do not fund:

- Debt reduction
- Individuals
- Government entities
- Political/lobbying
- Endowments
- Religious conversion

Together Women Rise does **not** fund organizations that engage in exclusionary practices based on religion or political affiliation or that attempt to convert the community beneficiaries to a particular religious faith or belief, or a political party or belief. Click [HERE](#) to read Together Women Rise's full Religion Policy.

## **IMPACT AND BENEFICIARIES**

### **Must projects show direct impact?**

Yes, projects must demonstrate direct impact on women and girls.

### **Are indirect beneficiaries allowed?**

Yes, but direct impact is required.

## **PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION**

### **Can multiple organizations apply together?**

Yes, but applicants must meet all eligibility criteria. Partnerships must exist at least 12 months.

### **Can a U.S. organization apply for work abroad?**

Yes.

### **Can funds be sub-granted?**

No.

## **APPLICATION AND TECHNICAL QUESTIONS**

### **Can applications be submitted in another language?**

No. All applications must be submitted in English.

### **Which browsers should be used to complete the online application?**

Chrome, Firefox, or Edge are recommended.

### **I cannot log into the portal. What should I do?**

Use the same email address used in your eligibility form and follow the login instructions provided in the email. If problems persist, please email [grants@togetherwomenrise.org](mailto:grants@togetherwomenrise.org).



## ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

### **Where can we find more information?**

Please visit the [Together Women Rise website](#) for full guidelines and resources.

### **Does Together Women Rise hold any information sessions or meetings for prospective applicants?**

Yes, information sessions are held prior to the opening of our grant cycle. You can watch the recording of this information session [HERE](#) and the presentation slides are [HERE](#).

In addition, office hours will be held on May 19 and June 1. Times and registration links are available [on our website](#).

### **Who can we contact with additional questions?**

Please email [grants@togetherwomenrise.org](mailto:grants@togetherwomenrise.org) with any questions you may have after reviewing the materials on our website.



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