

SOUTH AFRICA SPECIAL CALL FOR PROPOSALS: ELIGIBILITY AND GUIDELINES

Eligibility criteria

- You must be a CIVICUS voting member or associate member. To become a CIVICUS member, follow this [link](#). To verify your membership status please send an email to membership@civicus.org
- You belong to one of the following groups identified by the CIVICUS Monitor as those most commonly involved in incidents in which their rights are violated: women, labour rights, youth, LGBTQI+ and environmental rights
- Be based in South Africa and working to make South Africa a better place for everyone.
- You belong to the same group or community whose issues you are trying to address. For organisations, this implies that you are constituency-led. For example, an organisation working to increase youth participation in civil society is constituent-led if its leaders and members are young people.
- You find it hard to access funds because of bureaucracy/donor requirements and are seriously risking having to stop your activities for lacking resources.
- For individual applicants: You must belong to a movement/collective which will ultimately and clearly benefit from the grant assigned to the individual and the activities they will plan with these resources.

What we fund:

- Your application and/or proposed initiative strengthens your community and/or the work that you do, making South Africa a better place for everyone. If you are requesting core funding, the mission of your organisation or yourself should be aligned with the above.
- Core or unrestricted funding. This includes funding to sustain the daily activities of your individual advocacy work or your organisation's work. This can include salary for personnel, office rent, etc.

What and Who we do NOT fund:

- Applying for core funding as a way to build reserves for your organisation. We understand that during disruptive moments like what we are currently experiencing, the need to start building “reserves” to prepare for the future are a priority for many groups, organisations and activists, however we unfortunately cannot fund this during this round of applications.
- Non-constituent-led: groups or organizations whose governance and team composition does not reflect the same target population(s) it seeks to serve or represent.
- Individuals that don't identify with/belong to at least one of the eligible communities/groups for this call.
- Commercial (for-profit) enterprises or activities.
- Organisations or individuals that are not from South Africa.
- Funding to implement activities related to basic service provision*.

* Basic services include education, health, nutrition, housing and sanitation, among others. The provision of basic services is considered a core function of governments, but civil society individuals, groups and organisations also play a key role in supporting this function.

Selection criteria:

There are 7 main criteria for assessment. The information provided below aims to help applicants understand what the Membership Advisory Group (MAG) will be looking for when making their decisions. Each criterion is evaluated on a scale from 1 to 5.

- Clearly bring about lasting changes or a positive impact in your organisation/group/community.
- Clearly explains the problems, challenges, and what you are going to do about them.
- Clearly benefits the applicant's broader community.
- The proposal is designed from and by the impacted community.
- Faces difficulty being funded from other sources.
- Takes an innovative approach or is a bold action.
- Demonstrates that the organisation or individual has the commitment to carry out the proposal.

Selection Process

1. After the submission deadline on 03 May 2022, all eligible applications will be assessed against the selection criteria following the process below:
2. Applications will be screened for eligibility
3. A CIVICUS selection panel will do the first review of applications
4. The Member Advisory Group (MAG) will decide on a shortlist through a series of one-on-one and plenary conversations and meetings
5. Shortlisted applicants will have the opportunity to speak with a MAG member to talk further about their organisation and/or project
6. On the basis of all the information collated above the MAG will make their final decision

Timeline:

03 May 2022: Deadline for sending applications

1-8 June 2022: MAG interviews finalists

June 2022: Final selection

How to apply

Fill out [this form](#) before 03 May 2022.

PLEASE NOTE: Once you begin the application, you cannot save your answers, nor can you make edits or changes once the application has been submitted. To see a full list of questions for the application, please [click here](#). We recommend you prepare your answers in advance and copy/paste them into the application form.

Glossary

These are our definitions of some keywords, expressions, and terms that we use in the CSF and that you will find in our information and application forms. If you come across other words, terms, or expressions that you find confusing and should be added to this glossary, please contact us at solidarityfund@civicus.org.

Basic service provision or service delivery: work related to providing basic services that meet the essential needs of the population. Basic services include education, health, nutrition, housing and sanitation, among others. The provision of basic services is considered a core function of governments but civil society groups and organisations also play a key role in supporting this function.

Constituent-led group or organisation: groups or organizations whose governance and team composition reflect the same target population(s) it seeks to serve or represent. For example, an organisation working to increase youth participation in civil society is constituent-led if its leaders and members are young people; and organisation promoting women's rights is constituent-led if its leaders and members are women.

Core funding: funding that allows you or your organisation to cover basic "core" costs of your individual advocacy work or your organisation's work, which are not directly linked to the implementation of specific projects. This can include salary for personnel, office rent, equipment, etc.

Decision-making body: those authorised or required to make a decision.

Early stage social advocates: individuals or groups that are initiating their work of influencing public attitudes, policies, and laws to contribute to a more just, inclusive and sustainable world.

Financial struggle: A situation in which civil society organisations, groups and individuals are unable to access enough resources to cover their operating expenses. The CSF supports applicants at serious risk of closing due to the lack of resources and those facing financial struggles related to governments banning civil society from mobilising and receiving funds, and to donor restrictions.

Formal and non-formal civil society formations: any legally registered (formal) and unregistered (non-formal) civil society formation, including organisations, networks, coalitions, movements and early-stage social advocates and social entrepreneurs who are contributing to transformational impact in the communities served.

Grantmaking: the process of awarding grants.

In-kind support: non-financial contributions that provide resources like goods and services.

Project-based funding: funding to support specific activities related to a specific project.

Resources: anything from money to knowledge tools that are necessary for the effective and sustainable implementation/development of an initiative.

Social entrepreneurs: individuals or groups that develop and implement solutions blending “for-profit” performance with positive impact for a community or group.

Small organisations: For the purpose of the CSF, the Member Advisory Group considers as small organisations those formal and non-formal civil society formations that have an annual organisational budget of less than US\$50.000.

Unrestricted funding: funding that was not designated to a particular purpose and therefore can be used for any purpose related to your work, including core costs or any project activity.