



Drawdown Georgia Climate Solutions & Equity Grant

www.drawdownga.org/grants

Overview

Climate change is one of the most critical social, environmental, and economic issues of our day. Here in Georgia, communities from the mountains to the coast feel the effects of climate change in a variety of ways. From the health impacts of extreme heat to the property loss associated with flooding and other natural disasters. Low-income* BIPOC* communities often bear a disproportionate burden. This is not equitable and it's not sustainable.

Now is the time for solutions.

Drawdown Georgia* is building a statewide movement to bring climate solutions* home. The Drawdown Georgia Climate Solutions & Equity Grant (Drawdown Georgia Grant) seeks to support efforts to advance climate solutions that prioritize equity*.

Five foundation partners are teaming up to support this inaugural effort: the Kendeda Fund; the NextGen Committee of the Ray C. Anderson Foundation; the R. Howard Dobbs Jr. Foundation and its next gen program The Dobbs Fund; The Sapelo Foundation; and The Wilbur & Hilda Glenn Family Foundation.

This team plans to award at least four, two-year grants that are up to \$100,000 per year (for work to be conducted in 2023-2024). To apply, applicants must first submit a Letter of Introduction. Finalists will be invited to submit a full proposal. Awards will be announced in December 2022.

You can find links to apply as well as additional information about the grant at www.drawdownga.org/grants.

What is Drawdown Georgia™?

Drawdown Georgia is the inspiration for the Drawdown Georgia Grant. It is a statewide initiative working to scale climate solutions in Georgia in ways that reduce greenhouse gas emissions while advancing other societal priorities, including equity. For example, climate solutions can improve public health, reduce household energy costs, and increase opportunities for green jobs.

Drawdown Georgia identified 20 climate solutions that are ready to make a big impact in Georgia today and are tailored to our state's unique natural, economic, and social resources. The Drawdown Georgia Grant will focus specifically on 10 of these solutions that best fit the capabilities, budgets, and social capital of the nonprofit organizations and networks that this grant will support, including:



Alternative Transportation



Food Waste Reduction



Coastal Wetlands Protection



Large-Scale Solar



Composting



Plant-Forward Diet



Conservation Agriculture



Rooftop Solar



Energy Efficiency Improvements



Tree Planting

For additional information about the climate solutions, please see the glossary of terms at the end of this document.

Our Commitment to Equity:

The goal of the Drawdown Georgia Grant is to fund projects that will scale climate solutions and prioritize equity in low-income BIPOC communities in Georgia. We believe that these communities stand to benefit from climate solutions and must be centered in the work. We strongly encourage and seek applicants from organizations that have BIPOC leadership among their staff, programs, and/or board of directors.

What Kind of Work Will be Funded?

To be competitive, proposed work should include the following:

- **Climate Solutions:** Projects must apply, grow, or scale one or more of the 10 climate solutions listed above within a low-income BIPOC community in Georgia. Note: Grants will be awarded based on the quality of the proposed project, not the number of solutions addressed. Therefore, an application that strongly addresses one or two climate solutions would be valued over a weaker application listing many solutions.
- **Collaboration:** Projects must reflect significant engagement and collaboration with partners in the low-income BIPOC community served throughout the duration of the project. Projects can also include formal collaboration, where a primary applicant* submits the grant proposal with up to two co-applicants.* These “formal” partners should have shared values, goals, and plans, and they should have skill sets that complement each other as they pursue a common goal.
- **Plan for Success:** Projects must have a clear implementation plan that outlines: (A) specific goals that take budget, resources, and other factors into consideration, (B) a description of the planned work, (C) desired results, and (D) an evaluation process to determine degree of success.

Who Should Apply?

The grant aims to fund a cohort of projects from across Georgia that meet the following criteria:

- **Nonprofit Status:** The primary applicant must be a US-based 501(c)3 nonprofit organization in good standing with the Internal Revenue Service or have a fiscal sponsor that demonstrates such status.
- **Values in Practice:** Applicants should demonstrate commitment to low-income BIPOC communities, and share how these communities will benefit from the proposed work. We strongly encourage and seek applicants from organizations that have BIPOC leadership among their staff, programs, and/or board of directors.
- **Place Based:** The primary applicant should be based in the places where the proposed work will occur.

How to Apply

The first step is to complete a Letter of Introduction that includes: (A) a form that asks for basic information about the organization(s) applying and the proposed work, and (B) a more detailed narrative description of the proposed work, not to exceed two pages/750 words.

Upon review of the Letter of Introduction, applicants may be asked to provide additional feedback or clarification, if needed. Finalists will be selected and invited to submit a full project proposal. Proposals will be reviewed by the foundation partners as well as an outside review panel.

Application details can be found at www.drawdownga.org/grants.

*All items with a * are defined in a glossary at the end of the RFP.*

Terms and Conditions

This RFP will result in at least four, two-year grants that are up to \$100,000 per year. Grants will be issued in one-year increments beginning in 2022 for work beginning in 2023. Year two funding will be provided after the grantee shows progress towards meeting objectives during year one. Grantees have 24 months to accomplish stated goals, deliver results, and expend all grant funds.

Grants will not exceed \$100,000 in either grant project year, and two-year funding will not exceed \$200,000. Smaller grants will also be considered based on the needs of the proposed work and no preference will be given based on requested grant size. Projects can utilize other funding sources to expand the work beyond the grant totals.

Grant Timeline

- Year one required activities will include: a grant kickoff meeting, a mid-year check-in meeting, and an end-of-year review meeting.
- Year two required activities will include: bi-annual check-in meetings, a written grant report, and a review meeting to discuss grant outcomes.
- Grant recipients will have the opportunity to meet with each other and share learnings and best practices over the course of the grant period. Ongoing training sessions may also be provided.

Application Timeline

- Letters of Introduction open: August 1, 2022
- Letters of Introduction due: August 31, 2022
- Finalists announced: September 21, 2022
- Full Proposals from Finalists due: October 26, 2022
- Grant Awards announced: December 5, 2022

Contact Information

Please complete the Letter of Introduction online at www.drawdownga.org/grants.

Questions regarding the Drawdown Georgia Grant and the Letter of Introduction should be sent to grants@drawdownga.org.



Glossary of Terms

For the purposes of the Drawdown Georgia Climate Solutions & Equity Grant, we define the following terms below:

Alternative Transportation: Transportation is the leading source of greenhouse gas emissions in Georgia. This Drawdown Georgia Climate Solution is focused on replacing car trips with more environmentally friendly transportation options, such as biking and walking.

BIPOC: This term refers to Black, Indigenous, and people of color. This grant is intended to support organizations that are working in low-income BIPOC communities.

Climate Solutions: This refers to the myriad of ways we can reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that are fueling climate change. It also includes options to naturally sequester carbon dioxide emissions through trees, soil, and other vegetation.

Co-Applicant: This term refers to organizations that are formally partnering with the primary applicant to carry out programmatic work. Co-applicants will receive a portion of the grant dollars through regrants from the primary applicant. Co-applicants can be nonprofit organizations, local governments, or other groups.

Coastal Wetlands Protection: Georgia has 100 miles of coastline, home to the largest tidal marshes on the US Atlantic seaboard. This Drawdown Georgia Climate Solution focuses on preserving these ecosystems. Wetlands are important for many reasons, including their ability to store carbon.

Composting: When food waste and other organic materials, such as yard waste, break down in landfills it releases a potent greenhouse gas called methane. This Drawdown Georgia Climate Solution focuses on composting these materials instead of sending them to landfills. Composting breaks down the organic matter into nutrient-rich, carbon-sequestering fertilizer.

Conservation Agriculture: This Drawdown Georgia Climate Solution includes climate-friendly agricultural practices, such as crop rotation, cover cropping and reduced tillage. Conservation agriculture can benefit the land and sequester carbon in plants and soil.

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Energy Efficiency Improvements: Buildings create greenhouse gas emissions when they use electricity and natural gas for things such as heating, cooling, lighting, and to power appliances. This Drawdown Georgia Climate Solution focuses on making improvements to existing buildings to reduce energy usage, thereby saving money and reducing emissions.

Equity: There is no single definition of equity. We adopt the definition developed by the nonprofit organization Equity in the Center which defines equity as, “The guarantee of fair treatment, access, opportunity, and advancement while at the same time striving to identify and eliminate barriers that have prevented the full participation of some groups. The principle of equity acknowledges that there are historically underserved and underrepresented populations, and that fairness regarding these unbalanced conditions is needed to assist equality in the provision of effective opportunities to all groups.”

Food Waste Reduction: This Drawdown Georgia Climate Solution includes efforts to reduce the amount of food that is produced but not eaten. Food waste generates greenhouse gasses in every step of the food production and distribution process. There are many ways to reduce food waste, from buying less food to diverting uneaten food to those who are hungry.

Large-Scale Solar: Georgia has a powerful solar resource. This Drawdown Georgia Climate Solution includes the growth of large- and community-scale solar farms that create clean, renewable electricity.

Low-Income Communities: This grant adopts a broad definition of low-income communities. We use this term to mean any locality in Georgia that has experienced historical disinvestment. This includes localities of different scales, such as cities, counties, neighborhoods, or rural districts.

Plant-Forward Diet: A plant-forward diet can reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with meat production. This Drawdown Georgia Climate Solution focuses on the climate and health benefits of eating a diet that includes more fruits, vegetables, and other plant-based foods.

Primary Applicant: This is the lead applicant responsible for submitting the grant application and, if selected, receiving the grant funds. The primary applicant must be a US-based 501(c)3 organization in good standing with the Internal Revenue Service or have a fiscal sponsor that demonstrates such status.

Rooftop Solar: Georgia has a powerful solar resource. This Drawdown Georgia Climate Solution includes small-scale solar installations that produce electricity for the buildings where they are located.

Tree Planting: Trees naturally sequester carbon dioxide. This Drawdown Georgia Climate Solution is focused on increasing tree planting.