



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, under-invested 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.

The grant was initially launched in 2022 and repeated in 2023. In 2024, five funding partners are teaming up to support another round of grantmaking: The Ghanta Family Foundation; the Ray C. Anderson Foundation; The Reilly Family Fund; The Wilbur & Hilda Glenn Family Foundation; and an anonymous donor inspired by the past success of this program.

This team plans to award up to five, two-year grants of up to \$100,000 per year (for work to be conducted in 2025-2026). 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 2024.

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



Large-Scale Solar



Composting



Plant-Based Diet



Climate-Smart Agriculture



Rooftop Solar



Energy Efficiency Improvements



Tree Planting



Food Waste Reduction



Wetlands Protection

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 under-invested BIPOC communities in Georgia. BIPOC is a broad term that encompasses many communities in our state. We especially encourage applications from and for Black and Indigenous communities in Georgia in recognition of the present day legacy of enslavement and colonialism in the state. We believe that BIPOC communities, especially those that have experienced historical disinvestment, stand to benefit from climate solutions and must be centered in the work.

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 an under-invested 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 under-invested 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 public 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 under-invested 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. Letters of Introduction and 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.

Terms and Conditions

This RFP will result in up to five, two-year grants of up to \$100,000 per year. Grants will be issued in one-year increments beginning in 2024 for work beginning in 2025. 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. Projects can utilize other funding sources to expand the work beyond the grant totals.

Organizations who received funding from the 2023 (Cohort 2) Drawdown Georgia Grant as either primary applicants or co-applicants are not eligible for this 2024 Drawdown Georgia Grant. Organizations who received funding from the 2022 (Cohort 1) Drawdown Georgia Grant may apply for a grant to support new or existing project work related to scaling Drawdown Georgia climate solutions.

Grant Timeline

Year one required activities include two virtual meetings with funders to report on progress. Year two required activities include two virtual meetings with funders to report on progress and a final written report.

Application Timeline

Letters of Introduction open: May 21, 2024

Letters of Introduction due: July 26, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. ET

Finalists announced: August 30, 2024

Full Proposals from Finalists due: October 4, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. ET

Grant Awards announced: December 4, 2024

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.