



Strategic Opportunity Support Rapid Response Circle 2024 Frequently Asked Questions

- **Where do I apply for SOS Rapid Response 2024?**
 - <https://cjifund.submittable.com/submit/301208/2024-sos-circle-fund-phase-i>
- **If I have already received funding in previous SOS cycles or from different CJI Circles, will I be eligible for additional funding?**
 - Yes.
- **How do I create a submittable account?**
 - You will be prompted to open an account at the end of the RFP. Start your free account: <https://cjifund.submittable.com/signup>
- **Does the organization need to have formerly incarcerated people in the organization or just centered focus of work?**
 - Yes, formerly or currently incarcerated people need to be in leadership in the organization. This can be as staff, board, volunteer leaders, those involved in decision making in the organization, program, and/or campaigns. Directly impacted people, such as family members, children, etc., may also be eligible doing systems involved work not limited to including youth, elders in prison, ICE detentions, criminalized communities –War on Drugs, Sex workers, prevention and intervention.
- **Is there an organizational budget limit?**
 - Yes. Circle for Justice Innovation is committed to supporting emergent organizations. Organizational budget should be **no higher than 1 million dollars**. This does not include your fiscal sponsor's organizational budget.

- **Does Circle for Justice Innovations fund service-based organizations, programs and/or campaigns?**
 - No. CJI does not fund service only organizing. We understand there is necessary support needing to authentically engage and include formerly incarcerated people, their families and their return and stabilizing. We ask services are connected to an organizing/movement building strategy to end mass incarceration, mass criminalization and/or forms of state violence.

- **Are there word limits for the application sections?**
 - Yes, there are word limits for different sections. Please review each section of the application to learn more about its requirements.

- **Do you want a program or organizational budget?**
 - We will review your organizational budget to ensure it is not over 1 million dollars. We do not see your fiscal sponsor's budget.

- **How much are the grant amounts?**
 - The maximum grant request is \$5K, but many will be less than that.

- **Is the \$1M or less budget a hard requirement for applying?**
 - Yes.

- **Is formal fiscal sponsorship needed to support grassroots orgs that wish to apply?**
 - Your organization must have 501c3 status or a fiscal sponsor agreement in place to apply for this grant.

- **My org is a part of a larger coalition. We have formerly incarcerated folks in leadership (in the individual org). Would you consider our application on behalf of the larger coalition?**
 - Yes.

- **What is the RFP deadline?**
 - The RFP deadline is ongoing, and the Circle will be open until funds are spent down.

- **Do you need to see 990s from previous years?**
 - No.

- **Do you ever grant funding for LESS than the requested amount? In other words, an organization requests \$5k, but you decide instead you'll give them \$1,500 - does that ever happen?**
 - Yes. There are times when we have more organizations we are excited to support than we have the budget for. In this case, we may reduce grant sizes to fund as many groups as possible.

- **Is there a recognized preferred format for the budget submission?**
 - We ask that you submit a one-page PDF. An excel spreadsheet is also okay.