

Illinois COVID-19 Response Fund

Final Round Application Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Document



1. Who can apply for ICRF funding for this round?

Any organization or partnership that meets the [eligibility requirements](#) for this round may apply. The applicant must be a 501c3 public charity to receive the funds. The applicant can apply on behalf of a partnership comprised of one or more organizations.

2. How can my organization apply to the Fund?

To apply for funding, first read the [eligibility requirements](#). If you meet all eligibility criteria, you may apply through the [application link here](#).

The application process is open from July 8th, 2020 at 12PM CDT – July 24th, 2020 at 12PM CDT. No late submissions will be considered.

You will see a page that reads “thank you for submitting your application” when you have successfully submitted. If you are having difficulties submitting your application, please reach out to our team at icrf@cct.org.

3. Can I submit an application if I am a current grant recipient from ICRF?

Yes, current grant and re-grant recipients may apply for funding for this round if they meet all eligibility requirements.

4. My idea is for a specific area in Illinois. Is this okay?

Yes. We are open to considering a variety of geographic services areas – including a concentrated focus on a specific county or region, or a statewide effort. Funds must be used to assist individuals and families outside of the Cook / Collar Counties. For the purpose of this round of funding, ICRF considers the Collar Counties to be:

- DuPage
- Lake
- McHenry
- Will
- Kane
- Kendall

5. How does ICRF define “applicant” and “partner” in the application?

ICRF defines the “applicant” as the organization that will be accepting this grant award.

An applicant can apply on behalf of a partnership comprised of one or more organizations.

The applicant may operate as a fiscal sponsor for the partnership.

A “partner” is defined as any organization that is not the applicant and will be contributing to the project in a substantive way. A letter of support will be required from all listed partners.

6. Do I need to have a partner to complete the application?

No. However, your application may require one or more partners to meet the stated eligibility requirements.

7. In describing the requirement for diverse leadership, you mention the term “meaningful partnership”. How does ICRF define “meaningful partnership”?

A “meaningful partnership” indicates, among other things, that each partner brings value and experience to the partnership, plays a meaningful role in the work and decision-making, and that each partner receives a share of funding that is proportionate to their contribution of work, knowledge, and expertise.

8. What do you mean by community partner?

Community members/leaders understand issues facing their community. They have a critical perspective in what can and will work – and what doesn’t. We expect the community that will ultimately be served by the project to have voice in how the project is developed and executed. For that reason, we are requiring at least one organization in a partnership be from the community the grant is intended to benefit.

Also, we recognize that some organizations may not have experience working in certain regions, and we want to provide a way for organizations to forge partnerships to design and implement their projects.

9. May I submit an application if my organization is not a 501c3 public charity? Will you allow for fiscal sponsors?

Yes, you may partner with a 501c3 public charity as a fiscal sponsor.

10. Can my organization apply if it is not led by a Black / Latinx leader?

Yes – One goal for this round of grants is to specifically support, lift-up, and build sustainability for organizations led by Black / Latinx leaders. If your organization meets the other goals but is not led by a Black or Latinx individual, you may forge a partnership with an organization that is led by a Black or Latinx leader.

11. Can I apply if I am located in another state, or within the Cook / Collar Counties? What do you mean by Collar Counties?

Yes, you may apply if your organization is located in another state or within the Cook / Collar Counties, but 100% of the residents served through the funds must reside in Illinois, and outside of the Cook / Collar Counties. For the purpose of this round of funding, ICRF considers the Collar Counties to be:

- DuPage
- Lake
- McHenry
- Will
- Kane
- Kendall

12. Can I apply if I am not part of an existing organization? / Can I apply as an individual?

You must be a 501c3 public charity to apply or partner with a 501c3 organization to serve as your fiscal sponsor.

13. Does submitting an application guarantee funding?

No, submitting an application does not guarantee funding. This is a competitive round of funding, and grants will be awarded to a limited number of applicants. Further, if you receive funding, it is not guaranteed that it will be for the full amount requested.

14. May I submit more than one application?

You may submit one application per project proposal, though it is unlikely that multiple proposals from one organization will be funded.

15. What is the range of the grant I would be applying for? What is the duration of the grant?

The range of the grant is \$350,000 to \$2,000,000. You will be asked to specify the amount you are requesting and a breakdown of your proposed budget for the project in the application, but note that even if you receive funding, you are not guaranteed to receive the total requested amount. You must begin using the funds within one-month of receipt of the grant, and you will have one year from the date of disbursement to use the entirety of the grant dollars.

16. How will my application be evaluated?

Your application will primarily be rated on its ability to meet the goals and the criteria.

17. How many grants will be given?

We do not have a set number of grants that will be given, though we do have a fixed pool of funds. The number of grants given will be dependent on the dollar amount requested from the applicants selected for funding.

18. Where can I get answers if I have additional questions about ICRF or the application?

If you have questions about ICRF, please visit our website at <https://ilcovidresponsefund.org/index.html>.

If you have additional questions about the ICRF application functionality or content, please reach out to our ICRF team at icrf@cct.org.

We will also be holding optional, virtual Information Sessions to walk through the application and answer questions from potential applicants. The Information Sessions will include a brief presentation from the ICRF team and time for Q&A. If you are unable to attend any of the sessions, we will record each meeting and post them to our website. **[To register for any/all of the sessions, please use this link.](#)**

- Friday, July 10th at 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM CDT ICRF Final Round Information Session
- Monday, July 13th at 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM CDT ICRF Final Round Information Session
- Wednesday, July 15th at 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM CDT ICRF Final Round Information Session

19. When can I expect to hear from the ICRF after I submit an application? What happens next?

Once you submit an application, you will be routed to a confirmation page, saying “Thank you for submitting your application”. If you do not see this page, your application has not been received.

During our review process, we may be in touch with additional questions to provide clarity around your application responses. Other key dates can be found below:

- July 8th, 2020 at 12:00 PM CDT: [Application Open](#)
- July 24th, 2020 at 12:00 PM CDT: Application Closes; Organizations that do not submit by this deadline will not be considered for funding
- Week of August 31st, 2020 (Expected): Notification of grant awards/recipients