

Community Environmental Action & Justice Fund 2018 Grant Application

Applications Due Friday May 25, 2018

Notice: the Office of the Attorney General of California has issued regulations that will reduce the number and amount of Justice Fund grants that CEH will be able to make in the future to community-based environmental justice organizations. The Justice Fund will continue unchanged in 2018 and 2019, but it may not be available beyond that. For more information, see below.

BACKGROUND:

The Center for Environmental Health (CEH) is an Oakland-based nonprofit organization that helps protect the public from toxic chemicals. As an important part of our work, we file public interest lawsuits against corporate polluters who endanger the health of children, families, and communities in California. Our cases have:

- stopped a central dry cleaning repository from exposing workers and residents of a low-income neighborhood to cancer-causing chemicals;
- forced companies to remove lead from candy, baby powder, and jewelry; and led to industry changes that are protecting public health throughout California and beyond.

For other success stories and more information, please scroll to the bottom of this document for all applicable links.

Our victories in these lawsuits sometimes force polluters to pay settlements to our organization. In the past when the Attorney General's regulations allowed us to do so, we set aside part of these settlement funds to provide small grants to grassroots community-based organizations that serve and are led by low-income people, people of color, Indigenous peoples, and residents of disproportionately affected communities in California.

The Center for Environmental Health makes these donations through an annual grant cycle titled "Community Environmental Action and Justice Fund" (referred to as the Justice Fund). The grants we disburse in 2018 will come from settlements paid to CEH in cases concluded before the Attorney General's regulations prevented us from distributing settlements as grants.

The majority of Justice Fund grants will range in size from \$250 – \$5,000. To date since 2002, we have made over 115 grants totaling about \$610,000 to support critical environmental justice work across California.

A CHANGE TO CEH'S JUSTICE FUND: The Justice Fund grants are a portion of the settlement funds we received in past cases we filed under California's Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act (also known as Proposition 65). Until 2016, CEH shared settlements from all of our Prop 65 cases with environmental justice advocates in California.

But on October 1, 2016, the Office of the Attorney General of the State of California issued new regulations that restrict the funds from these cases to uses that "address the same public harm as



that allegedly caused by the defendant(s) in the [original Prop 65] case.” Because many of our cases focus on toxics in consumer products rather than other issues that environmental justice advocates prioritize for themselves, the Attorney General’s decision will greatly reduce the funds that we can share with environmental justice communities. (In our cases on air and water pollution, we continue to share settlement funds directly with the affected communities.)

Note: CEH still holds funds that we intend to share with Environmental Justice advocates from settlement payments received in prior years. We project that in 2018 and 2019 we will be able to continue to make grants to grassroots environmental justice organizations. However, current Justice Fund grantees should note and plan for the fact that this fund will likely not be available after 2019.

ELIGIBILITY

Justice Fund grants are awarded to 501(c)(3) organizations (or projects fiscally sponsored by 501(c)(3) organizations) working in pursuit of environmental justice and community empowerment in California. The Justice Fund Committee will only consider applications from California, grassroots, community-based environmental justice groups with annual budgets of less than \$500,000. The Committee usually does not fund local chapters of larger organizations. Groups that have been funded for more than four years may be considered only for smaller grant amounts.

Most grants will be for specific campaigns, projects, or activities, such as attendance at conferences and trainings, strategic planning, producing outreach materials, or providing internship stipends. However, the Justice Fund will also consider applications for general operating support, emergency assistance, and for filling small gaps in organizations’ budgets. Grants will not be made to government agencies or to support religious activities or lobbying. Grants will only be made to groups led by and serving low-income communities in the state of California in support of environmental justice efforts.

Note: Successful grant applications will **show how your organization’s values align with ours and, as specifically as possible, how the award will directly support a project or program that addresses environmental justice.** If you are applying for funds to support a project/program on economic, food, or transportation justice, please be as explicit as possible in describing how these issues directly affect environmental justice in the community where your organization works.

APPLICATION FORM INSTRUCTIONS

The Justice Fund application is available on our website <https://www.ceb.org/get-involved/justice-fund/>. To be considered for funding during the current grant cycle, please **submit your application and all supporting materials by Friday May 25, 2018**. Current Grantees are also required to submit a brief feedback form when submitting an application.

Applications will be accepted the following ways:

1. Online application form at <https://www.ceb.org/get-involved/justice-fund/> (preferred method)
2. By email (one consolidated PDF file, if possible) to JFund@ceb.org
3. Hard copy via USPS mail at:
Center for Environmental Health – Justice Fund
2201 Broadway, Suite 302
Oakland, CA 94612



CEH CENTER for
ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH

We cannot consider incomplete applications, so please submit your completed application, including your 501(c)(3) letter or that of your fiscal sponsor, and all other attachments requested below **by the May 25, 2018 deadline**.

EVALUATION

The Center for Environmental Health's aspires to provide effective support to communities disproportionately affected by chemical pollution. We also seek to create meaningful alliances and partnerships with the leaders and organizations that work in affected communities.

To help us pursue these goals, we ask that grantees complete a brief, one- to two-paragraph evaluation after the grant year has been completed. **If you wish to apply for a new grant in 2018, please complete your evaluation form early and submit it with your new application.** Please share photographs that show your work or your staff in action.



Please submit the following documents with your application:

- ___ IRS 501(c)(3) letter of applicant or applicant's fiscal sponsor
- ___ Letter of support from fiscal sponsor (if you have a fiscal sponsor)
- ___ Current board/leadership/advisory group list
- ___ Responses to Application Questions (see below)
- ___ Completed Evaluation/Feedback Form (required for current grantees only)

Application Questions:

1. Briefly describe your organization and its mission. (*limit 100 words*)

2. Please explain how the leadership of your organization is reflective of the communities you serve. (*limit 100 words*)

3. Describe the campaign, project, or activity you would like the Justice Fund to support. If you are requesting general support, please explain how the funds will support program operations that address environmental justice. (*limit 250 words*)

4. Explain how the proposed project or activity will benefit your community and describe the outcomes you anticipate. (*limit 250 words*)

5. What are the key challenges facing your proposed project or activity? (*limit 200 words*)

6. How does your proposed project/activity match the intent of the Center for Environmental Health's Justice Fund? Please be as specific as possible. For example, if you are doing an urban forestry project, how does that work align with the intent of the Justice Fund and support EJ? (*limit 100 words*)

7. Please tell us how you heard about the Justice Fund and if you have received support from the Fund in the past. Please list past grant amounts. (*limit 100 words*)



Budget Information:

Amount requested from the Justice Fund: \$
Total budget for project/activity (if not applying for general support): \$

1. Please provide:
 - An *organizational budget* for your current fiscal year;
 - A list (by amount and name) of *other funders for your work* and indicate whether funds are pending or committed.
2. For project-specific requests, please also provide:
 - An *itemized project/activity budget* for the entire project, not just the amount requested from the Justice Fund, with all relevant expenses (e.g., travel, stipends, staff time, meals, registration, materials, etc.);
 - A list (by amount and funder) of the *other funds you have secured or are pending* for this project/activity.

Authorization:

Name of person requesting the grant:

Title:

Signature: _____

Date:



Community Environmental Action & Justice Fund Grantee Evaluation and Feedback Form

1. What was the project/activity that you received Justice Fund support for? What are your overall impressions of how the project went? (*limit 350 words*)
2. We believe that stories of environmental justice advocacy are important to share with the general public. Towards that end, each year, CEH will highlight a few of the Justice Fund awardees on our website. In a paragraph or two, please tell us what story you would like to share about your work in your community and how the Justice Fund award made a difference in those efforts. Feel free to also include photographs or other media. (*limit 350 words*)
3. How do you suggest that we promote the Justice Fund so that all California environmental justice advocates know about it? (*limit 100 words*)
4. How else can we make the Justice Fund an effective source of support for communities? (*limit 100 words*)