**EDF Request for Proposals: Fighting for our Future and for Resilient Communities**

**Background**

As the world reels from the effects of COVID-19, U.S. communities are feeling the full range of impacts, from failing health infrastructure to fatalities. Once again, frontline and vulnerable populations are most at risk from the negative ripple effects of the virus, its health impacts, and the global economic fallout.

While many of our institutions were unprepared for the civic, social, and economic disruptions caused by the virus, we witnessed remarkable capacities for adaptation, resiliency, and care in our communities. It is critical that as a nation we continue to build on these strengths, especially as other dangers, including climate impacts, continue changing the world as we know it. As with COVID-19, the world is not adequately prepared for the mounting effects of climate change. Now is the time to double-down on the work of building resilient and sustainable communities.

***It is in this spirit that the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) seeks to support organizations throughout the country that are working to ensure communities are safe from pollution and are committed to building resilient and sustainable communities.***

Across the country, communities are feeling the effects of the current Administration’s efforts to overturn critically needed climate policies, roll back long-standing environmental protections, defund health initiatives, and censor science. Organizations defending the health and welfare of U.S. communities are urgently needed to shape how we rebuild our communities after this global crisis, applying core values that best protect and acknowledge the interconnectedness of our health, climate, and our natural resources.

**Grant Details**  
Now in its fourth year, EDF is launching its Summer of Action grants program, aimed at supporting organizations’ communication and advocacy strategies to influence federal officeholders and activate stakeholders. Awards range from $5k to $20K and proposals may include multiple geographies. Preference will be granted to proposals that creatively engage federal officeholders. The grants period extends from June 15-September 15.

EDF invites proposals from organizations nationwide. We are particularly interested in hearing from organizations working in Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Michigan, North Carolina, Texas, Utah, and West Virginia.

All organizations engaging in efforts to advocate for climate, clean air, and clean energy solutions and for efforts that make our communities more resilient to climate impacts through strategic digital messaging, earned media, community education, and outreach campaigns are encouraged to apply. Examples of potential grantees:

* Organizations actively engaging their stakeholders, raising awareness, and initiating policy changes that promote health equity, climate solutions, and resiliency
* Organizations that serve frontline communities, people of color, civic engagement, local businesses, and groups of faith
* Organizations fighting climate change and promoting community resiliency efforts

*Note: The 2020 Summer of Action Grants are not intended for lobbying on specific legislative proposals or bills—rather, they are intended to further bring to light the urgent need for resilient communities, climate action, and most importantly, the desire for action by constituents across the United States.*

# Selection Process

Proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria:

* Demonstrates an urgent call for Congress to act on resilience, sustainability, and/or health, preferably with a connection to climate change
* Engages lawmakers/members of Congress
* Engages community leaders and other stakeholders in outreach efforts
* Does NOT advocate for a specific legislative proposal
* Presents clear metrics and reporting on activities

# Timeline

To answer any questions about this RFP, EDF will host a conference call with interested applicants on May 1 at 1 p.m. ET. Please contact Christina Fullmer at [cfullmer@edf.org](mailto:cfullmer@edf.org) for more information. The application submission deadline is midnight, May 15, 2020 ET. Decisions will be shared no later than June 1with a grantee Kick-off Webinar hosted by EDF on June 5 at 1:30 p.m. ET.

To apply via Word doc, fill out the questions below and send (no scanned documents) by midnight ET, May 15, 2020, to Christina Fullmer ([cfullmer@edf.org](mailto:cfullmer@edf.org)) and Olivia Stevens (olivia.a.stevens@outlook.com).

**Organization Information**

**Full Legal Organization Name:**

**Address:**

**City:**

**State:**

**Zip Code:**

**Website:**

**Contact Information**

**Point of Contact:**

**Title:**

**Phone Number:**

**Email:**

**Organizational Information**

**501(c)(3)? (YES OR NO):**

**If YES, EIN:**

**Year Established:**

**If NO, provide fiscal sponsor's name, address and EIN:**

**Total Organization Budget ($):**

**Brief Description of Organization (no more than 2 sentences):**

**Communications Capacity and Experience**

We recognize that not all organizations have communications capacity to the extent that may be needed to bring their stories to life; knowing your existing capacity and experience will be helpful so we can better determine how to support your project

Have in-house capacity to secure earned media

Have experience organizing virtual media event

Have reporter and editorial board contacts

Have active media digital channels (twitter, blog feed)

Have specialized experience in digital communications and advocacy

Have experience mobilizing GOTV efforts

Have experience mobilizing influential leaders in partnership with advocacy organizations

**Grant Proposal**

**Project Name:**

**Requested Amount (Proposals between 5-20K considered):**

**Detailed Project Description (no more than 500 words):**

**Target States/Communities:**

**Constituency or Member(s) of Congress to engage:**

**Measurable Outcomes/Metrics to Evaluate Success (no more than 150 words):**

**Previous Experience Working with EDF (if any):**

**Previous Experience Partnering with EDF on messaging campaign (if any):**

**Examples of Similar Projects Executed Successfully (no more than 150 words):**

**Potential for Sustained Impact after Grant (no more than 150 words):**