



Stronger Together Fund FAQs for Fiscally Sponsored Projects

March, 2024

Below are Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the Stronger Together Fund (STF). STF was established in 2020 to support Tides Center's Fiscally Sponsored Projects (FSPs) as they shift and strengthen power in their communities.

In 2024 the Stronger Together Fund will provide general support grants to Tides Center organizations, with a focus on BIPOC-serving groups.

Application [here](#). For more information, reach out to us directly at: strongertogether@tides.org

Application Process Questions

- Q. Can an FSP ask clarifying questions or consult their service team (Advisor, Accountant & HR Business Partner) in preparing the application?
- Service team members should not be directly consulted or review draft applications.
 - That said, you can definitely ask clarifying questions to your service team members. Advisors and the core Stronger Together team are good places to reach out to for clarification. You can reach the core Stronger Together team at StrongerTogether@tides.org.
- Q. Can service team members recommend or nominate Fiscally Sponsored Projects to be considered for grants?
- Service team members can recommend to a partner that they should apply but they *will not* nominate a Fiscally Sponsored Project for a grant. Each partner must apply directly via the established process.
 - Service team members will have the opportunity to provide additional information for an application once it has been received.
 - Service team members or the Stronger Together Fund core team can answer questions that a Fiscally Sponsored Project may have, but will not be helping with application development.
 - An Independent Advisory Committee has been established to make grantmaking decisions.

Selection Process Questions

- Q. What is the process and selection criteria to approve grant applications?

- The Independent Advisory Committee will use a rubric to evaluate core criteria that are shared in the application.
 - The committee members will independently provide their thoughts on grant applications, and then meet to make decisions on whether to approve a given set of grant applications using the criteria and rubric as the foundational guide.
- Q. If a grant request is not approved, how/when will the partner be informed? Will Tides provide feedback?
- A member of the advisory committee or service team will inform the partner of all decisions, approval or no approval. Tides will provide a short summary of feedback from the advisory committee.
- Q. Will priority be given to organizations with smaller budgets? If a project is currently in a critical cash situation, can they apply?
- Priority will be given to organizations serving BIPOC communities, with demonstrated financial need (using data that Tides already has access to), as outlined in the grant criteria. Budget size is not a main factor, though we will consider how far Stronger Together Fund support can go in meeting an organization's need.
 - Projects with critical cash situations are encouraged to apply.

Deadline and Timing Questions

- Q. What is the deadline for a Fiscally Sponsored Project to submit the application? And is it to their advantage to submit it sooner than later (i.e. in terms of funds potentially running out)?
- Applications for this round of the Stronger Together Fund are being accepted April 1, 2024 - April 30, 2024.
 - The full application pool will be reviewed at the same time, and there is no benefit to applying early.
- Q. When will decisions be communicated?
- The Independent Advisory Committee will meet in May 2024 to review and select the grant applications to present to the Tides Center Board for approval. Once approved, projects will be notified of the decision by the Stronger Together Fund team. We anticipate this process to take 6-8 weeks from application to decision.
 - All Fiscally Sponsored Projects that apply will hear from the Tides team by June 2024 regarding the status of their application.

Stronger Together Fund Amount Questions

- Q. How should a Fiscally Sponsored Project determine the amount they want to request?
- The grant amount requested should reflect your organization's financial need.
 - The Independent Advisory Committee will model a trust-based, responsive giving approach to each award decision--realizing that project leaders know what is best for their needs.
 - Applicants should ask for what they need and not just the maximum.
 - Not every request nor each amount is guaranteed to be approved.
- R. How did the Stronger Together Fund decide on the grant range of \$10,000 - \$20,000?
- Tides decided on a range of \$10,000 - \$20,000 based on our estimate of the number of applications we would receive and the current funding available to us in the Stronger Together Fund.
 - The Stronger Together Fund anticipates making 20-30 grants during this round of grantmaking.
 - The STF team anticipates the next round of grantmaking to happen in spring/summer of 2025 along a similar timeline to 2024.

Eligibility To Apply Questions

- Q. I am not a Tides Fiscally Sponsored Project. Can I apply?
- No, not at this time. Currently our only emergency funding program is focused on supporting the 150+ organizations that are part of Tides' fiscal sponsorship program. We're sorry that we aren't able to extend our resources at this time.