

Building Equity and Alignment for Impact Fund

Grantmaking Strategy and Governance

BEAI Fund Overview

The BEAI Fund supports the grassroots organizing sector to **advance the environmental and climate justice movement.**

Through its support for **grassroots organizing, the Fund ultimately aims to create lasting policy and systems changes** that institutionalize and expand community-based solutions to ecological and economic crises, and that stop the expansion of the extractive and polluting industry.

By significantly increasing resources for the grassroots organizing sector, the BEAI Fund also hopes to shift the narrative and public opinion **toward equity and root cause solutions.**

BEAI Fund Strengths

- National network and focus
- Offers a container for collaboration and alignment across the grassroots organizing sector, national environmental organizations, and the philanthropic sector
- Proven track record of building stronger ties and collaboration across these sectors
- Advisory Board comprised of majority grassroots leadership who are connected to what is happening on the ground
- Draws on existing expansive national network of grassroots leadership and expertise
- Firmly established commitment to equity and inclusion, democratic decision making, and transparency, rooted in the Jemez Principles



BEAI Fund Strategy

BEAI Fund Mission

The BEAI Fund seeks to ensure that the grassroots organizing sector supporting environmental and climate justice has the resources needed to increase its capacity and to replicate, expand, and scale its impact to ensure that lasting solutions are met on the ground.

BEAI Fund Goals and Impacts

Goal 1: Build power in grassroots frontline communities, and grow connections between them in order to facilitate movement-building for broader structural change.

Impact 1: Expand the base of impacted populations engaged in the environmental movement.

Impact 2: Significantly expand the leadership capacity of the environmental justice movement.

Impact 3: Win tangible victories related to environmental justice issues.

Goal 2: Significantly strengthen the grassroots movement infrastructure supporting environmental and climate justice

Impact 1: Strengthen the sophistication and capacity of grassroots organizations.

Impact 2: Grow and strengthen networks across grassroots organizations.

BEAI Fund Anticipated Outcomes

In addition to the impacts described on the previous slide, the following detailed outcomes would result from achieving each of our goals:

- Strong capacity exists within grassroots organizations, especially within the areas of:
 - Training and popular education
 - Media and communications
 - Financial literacy, strategy and campaign development
 - Coalition building, media and communications capacity
 - Governance and administration
 - Fundraising
- Increase in grassroots organizations' capacity to engage in and lead advocacy and policy campaigns
- Improved coordination and capacity across targeted regional and national networks, alliances, and support organizations in the grassroots organizing sector
- Connections developed between ecological struggles in different sectors and geographies
- Deepened experience by grassroots organizations and networks in developing effective strategies

Grantmaking Support

The BEAI Fund will offer three kinds of grants across two annual cycles, including:

- 1) **General Operating Grants***
 - Leadership Grants: \$20,000 - \$50,000
 - Emerging Organizations Grants: \$10,000 - \$25,000
- 2) **Capacity-building Grants**
- 3) **Urgent Action/Learning Exchange Grants**

*For many grantees, the Emerging Organizations grants will serve as an entry point to move to the “Leadership Grants” in the future

Who is Eligible for Funding?

The BEA Fund will prioritize strategic groups with high levels of effectiveness, the greatest need, and the greatest potential to advance solutions, in the following order of preference:

- 1) **Grassroots base-building, community-led groups** that are rooted in the communities they represent; especially within communities of color and low-income communities (at least 70% of funding will be devoted to this category)
- 2) **Alliances and networks of grassroots groups** at the regional and national level that grassroots leaders identify as priorities to strengthen their work
- 3) **Critical movement support groups**, including education, research, policy, and legal support groups

Grant Criteria

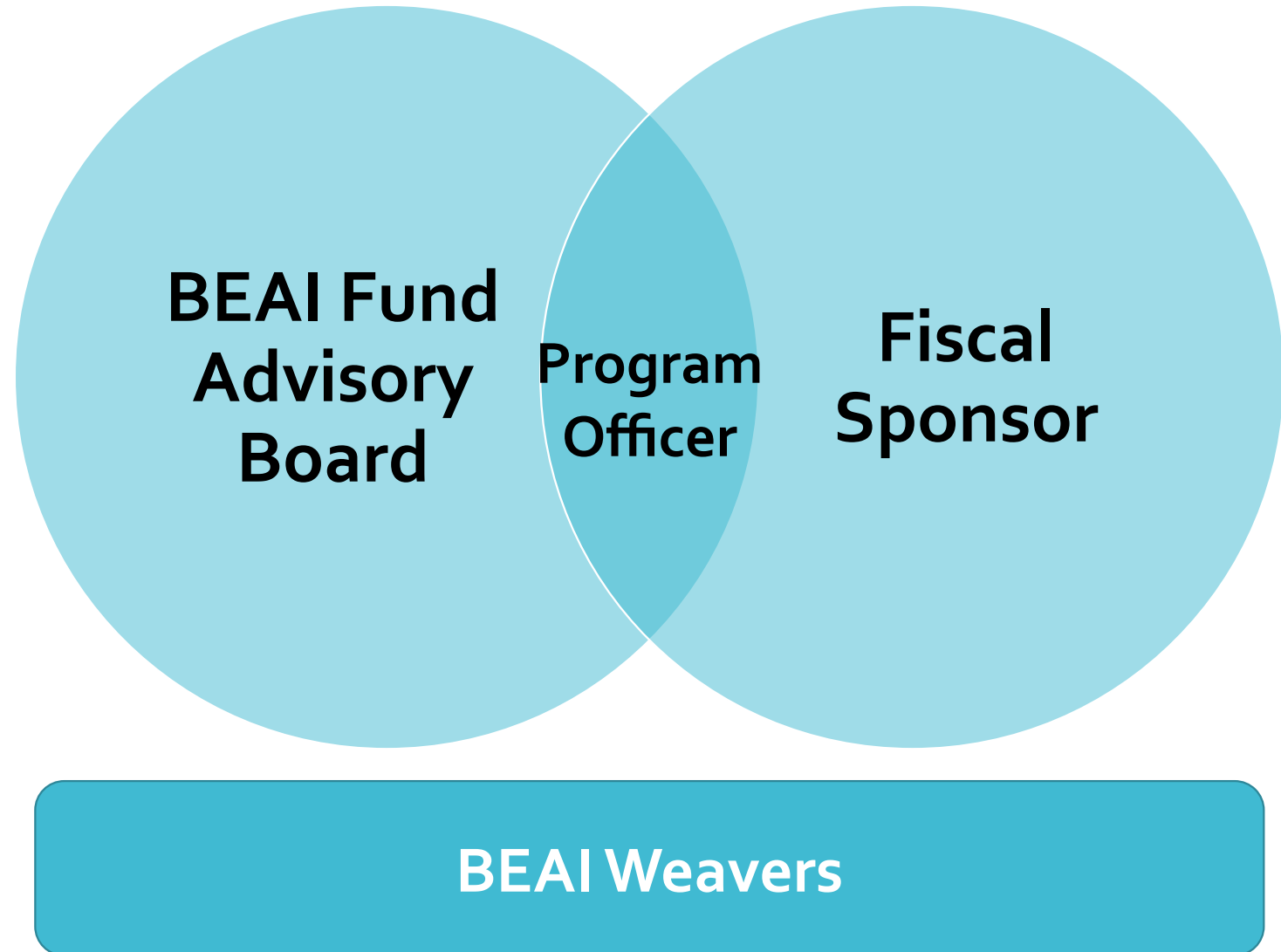
Priority will be given to those organizations that:

- Are rooted in and support the most vulnerable populations: Indigenous communities, communities of color, and/or low-income white communities
- Are membership-based and democratically run
- Develop and train grassroots leaders
- Address issues in a way that recognizes the intersections between themes such as ecological justice, racial, gender, and economic justice, immigration, poverty, and workers' rights
- Cultivate a vision for long-term structural change
- Engage in direct action
- Balance issue work with base building
- Contribute to movement building
- Engage in learning and self-reflection
- Can demonstrate sound management



BEAI Fund Governance and Operations

Overview of Governance Structure



Roles and Responsibilities

Weavers

- Set the overall strategic direction of the BEAI Fund, reviewing and refreshing the fund's strategy annually
- Determine who serves on the BEAI Fund Advisory Board through an open process and clear guidelines
- Responsible for selecting and managing the BEAI Fund fiscal sponsor (Grassroots International)
- Receives two reports annually on grantee selections and progress
- Will work with Program Officer to identify an external evaluation partner and process; and ensure there are identifiable and measurable outcomes at intervals and the conclusion of the Fund.

Roles and Responsibilities

BEAI Fund Fiscal Sponsor

- Maintains fiduciary responsibility for all BEAI funds
- Responsible for hiring and oversight of the BEAI Fund Program Officer
- Retains final discretion over all grant making decisions to ensure compliance
- Responsible for administrative management of funds
- Executes and maintains all agreements with grantees
- Maintains agreements with BEAI funders and is responsible for reporting
- Employs the BEAI Fund Program Officer and provides all HR support

Roles and Responsibilities

BEAI Fund Program Officer (at Grassroots International)

- Hired and managed by the fiscal sponsor
- Responsible for day-to-day management of the Fund
- Identifies potential grantees, reviews proposals, and makes recommendations to the advisory board
- Provides support to the Advisory Board, onboarding new members, preparing all meeting materials, and facilitating discussions
- Manages the BEAI Fund grants process and proposal review, including providing support to prospective grantees as they prepare their proposals
- Maintains regular communication with BEAI Fund grantees
- Supports ongoing fundraising efforts for the Fund
- With guidance and final approval of Weavers, identify external evaluation partner that can clarify an evaluation framework, collect data, monitor progress against framework, and tell interim and final Fund story

Roles and Responsibilities

BEAI Fund Advisory Board

Composition:

- At least 3-4 grassroots representatives
- At least 1 funder
- 1 national green organization representative
- May include 1 representative of another sector not current represented by the BEAI membership

A majority of the Advisory Board at all times will be grassroots representatives

Any BEAI Participant may nominate themselves for the Advisory Board. Advisory Board members must be BEAI participants.

Roles and Responsibilities

BEAI Fund Advisory Board

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Advises the Weavers on the Fund's overall strategy and sets grant-making criteria and guidelines
- Reviews all proposal materials for alignment with BEAI Fund priorities
- Makes final grant recommendations to the fiscal sponsor

Advisory Board members shall strive for consensus. If consensus cannot be reached, a super-majority is required.

Conflict of Interest Statement: Advisory Board member organizations may be neither nominated nor considered for funding during the term the organization's staff or representative serves on the Advisory Board.

Grantmaking Processes and Procedures

- Any BEA grassroots participant can each nominate two potential grantees to apply for funding per grantmaking cycle; big greens and funders may each nominate one potential grantee for funding per grantmaking cycle
- BEAI Fund will manage **up to two cycles annually**
- Initially, applications will be by **invitation only**
- Proposal review and a scoring sheet for applications will be based on **clear grant-making criteria and guidelines**
- The program officer will **provide technical support during the application process**

BEAI Fund by the numbers

2018 :

72 Proposals Received

47 U.S. Based Organizations Funded

Over \$1.2 million in grants

2019:

14 Proposals Received

13 Puerto Rico Based Organizations Funded

\$250,00 in grants

BEAI Fund Timeline

October 2019 - December 2019

- Request for Nominations go out to BEA Initiative Participants
- New Advisory Board members added
- Deadline for nominations
- Advisory Board adds more nominations
- Request for proposals are sent out

January 2020 - February 2020:

- Webinars hosted by Grassroots International and BEAI Fund Advisory Board
- Deadlines for proposals

March 2020- April 2020:

- Advisory Board reading and reviewing proposals
- In person meeting with Advisory Board to make final recommendations for grantmaking
- Grassroots International Board Approves grant recommendations
- Program Officer starts grantmaking process

May 2020:

- Advisory Board Debriefs
- External Evaluation commences