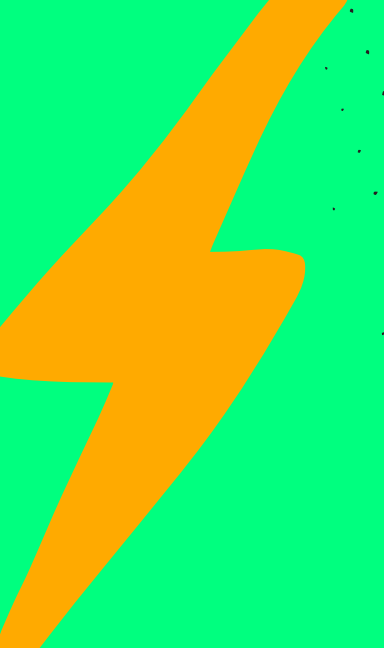




GROWING ROOTS GRANT 2026

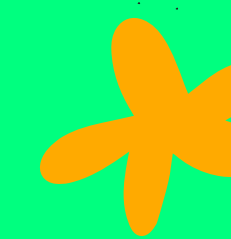
**APPLICATION
PACKAGE**





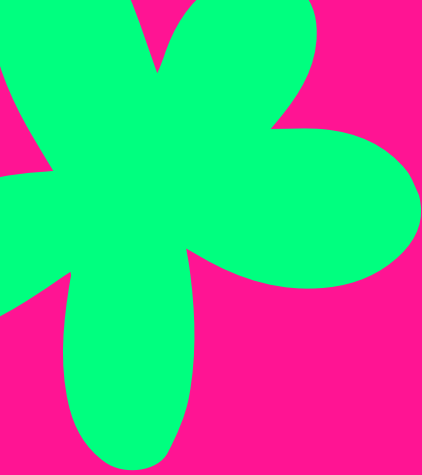
WHAT IS THE GROWING ROOTS GRANT AND WHO IS IT FOR?

The Growing Roots Grant provides funding of up to \$10,000 USD per group to support new and emerging youth-led projects, initiatives, or campaigns with a demonstrated commitment to their communities. The program invests in people, their ideas, and their potential to drive community-level change through systemic thinking, whether oriented toward political impact, local autonomy, or strategic dialogue and effective ways of grassroots organizing.



Grants are accompanied by ongoing mentorship, reinforcing long-term capacity building and leadership development beyond financial support. The program will provide grants to between 8-10 grassroots youth-led initiatives from the Global South.





WHO IS ROOTS?

Roots is an international organization grounded in the philosophy of “community-born, community-led, and community-owned”. Working directly in the field, we build critical social and organizational infrastructure to dismantle systemic barriers of access to civic spaces and political processes, and empower people in frontline communities to lead change grounded in their stories, struggles, and solutions. We collaborate with and incubate initiatives that drive community-led innovations, improve the lives of those around them, and shape climate policy to reflect local realities.



WHAT DOES THE GROWING ROOTS GRANT SUPPORT?

This year, we are seeking new and emerging projects (no older than one year) that create meaningful impact in three key areas:

1

Strategic dialogue and narrative building: Projects that create spaces for dialogue and shared understanding in divided or polarized contexts. This includes efforts to counter misinformation or disinformation, strengthen relationships within communities, and build bridges between communities, authorities, institutions, or coalitions in ways that shift narratives and support local organizing.

2

Advocacy-oriented initiatives: Projects that seek to influence concrete public policy or legislation, or that contribute to changes in local or municipal policies through advocacy, research, or civic engagement.

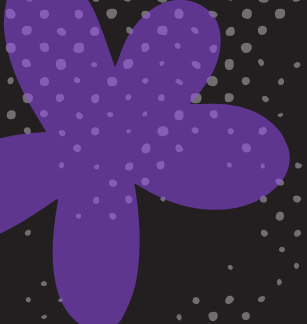
3

Community autonomy initiatives: Projects that build or strengthen infrastructure, systems, or resources that are owned and managed by the community itself and strengthen long-term community power and structures.

WHO WILL BE INVOLVED IN THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS?

Two bodies will oversee the assessment of Growing Roots Grant applications and provide subsequent support and feedback: the **Selection Team** and the **Youth Advisory Group**.





WHAT SUPPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE IN ADDITION TO FUNDING?

- ✦ **Coaching:** Coaches, drawn from the Roots team, will provide ongoing support through one-on-one mentoring to enable the successful implementation of each initiative, as well as any other support required by grantees.
 - ✦ **Capacity building:** To support the success of funded initiatives, we will offer tailored workshops for grantees. These sessions will focus on building skills and capacity in areas such as storytelling, communications, organizing, and project evaluation, among others.
 - ✦ **Communications:** Grantees will be amplified through the Roots social media channels through storytelling opportunities, videos, and posts. We will also offer local media support to help amplify your initiative and your messages.
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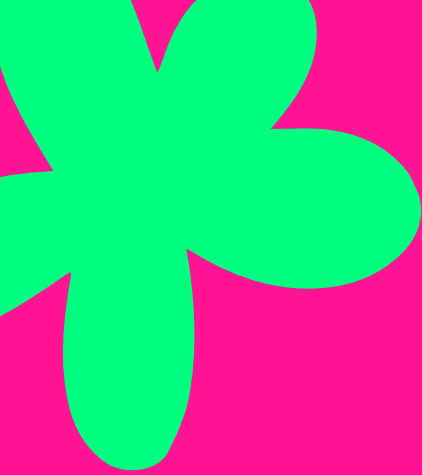
TIMELINE OF APPLICATION CYCLE

Applications open: February 8–28, 2026. During this period, we invite interested candidates to submit their applications.

Review process: March 2026. All applications will be reviewed by the Growing Roots Grant team.

Results: By April 15, 2026. Prospective grantees will be notified directly. Given the high volume of applications we receive, we regret that we are unable to contact unsuccessful applicants individually. If you have not heard from us by mid-April, this means that we have not been able to move forward with your proposal this year.





FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW IS THE GROWING ROOTS GRANT FUNDED?

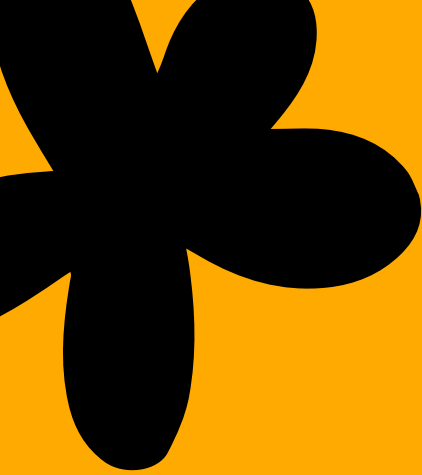
The Growing Roots Grant is led by Roots, and made possible by the financial backing and support of the Urban Movement Innovation Fund.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY YOUTH/YOUTH LED?

We support initiatives from those who are between 18 and 35 years of age. The majority of the membership of your group should be made up of people within that range, including those responsible for making decisions in the group.

DO APPLICATIONS NEED TO BE IN ENGLISH?

We will be accepting and reviewing applications in both English and Spanish.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

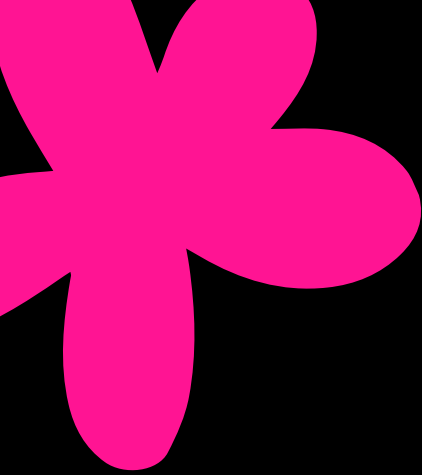
DO WE NEED TO BE A LEGALLY REGISTERED ORG TO APPLY?

No. Your group/organization does not need to be legally registered in order to be eligible to apply. Roots is open and committed to supporting both unregistered groups as well as those that are legally registered as non-government organizations in their countries. However, we will not consider applications from for-profit groups or business ventures.

WHAT REGIONS ARE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

The Growing Roots Grant is open to initiatives from Global South regions, including the Middle East, North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, South East Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Pacific. We also welcome applications for initiatives from diaspora and BIPOC communities who may be located in Global North countries.





FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



CAN I APPLY TO START SOMETHING NEW?

Yes! We are looking for new/emerging ideas that show potential to evolve into durable, autonomous organizing work, within a one-year timeframe.

CAN I APPLY IF IT'S JUST ME CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT?

While applicants do not need to be formally part of a pre-existing group or organization, projects must be carried out by a collective (i.e., more than one individual). We are not able to support projects carried out by a single individual working alone.

I NEED HELP WITH MY APPLICATION - WHO CAN I TALK TO?

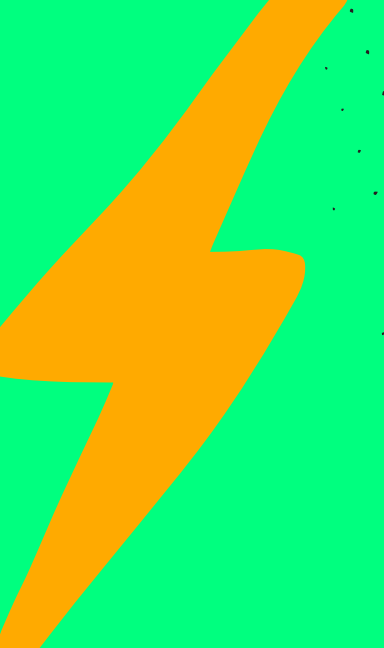
You can email us at microgrants@poweredbyroots.org and one of our team members will assist you with any issues or questions.



HAVE ANOTHER QUESTION ABOUT THE GROWING ROOTS GRANT?

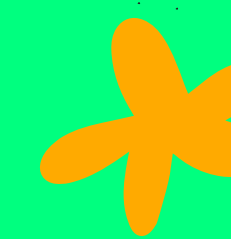
Head over to our website at www.poweredbyroots.org/resourcing-campaigns to check out a detailed list of FAQs.





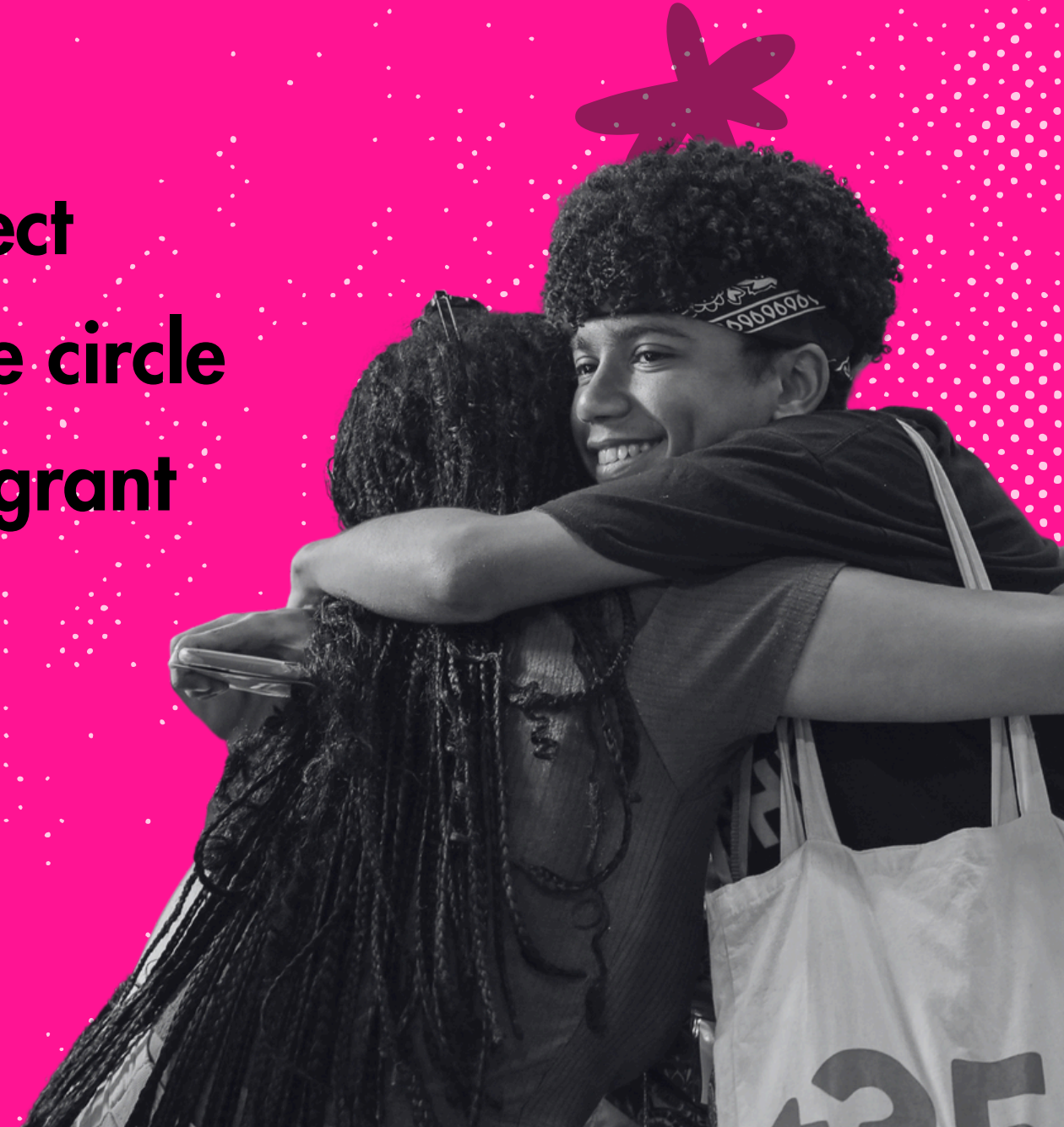
WHAT INFO IS ASKED FOR IN THE APPLICATION FORM?



-  **Information about you and your group:** Including your name, region, contact details, the name of your organization or group, your age range, and what kind of work you do.
 -  **Details about your proposal:** Including what it's about, your goals, what you aim to achieve, who benefits, your relationship with your community of focus, what challenges you foresee and how you will address them.
 -  **Your budget and timeline:** Including expenses such as transportation or equipment, professional services, research or training, or project implementation that this financial support would cover.
 -  **A video:** About yourself, your path into activism, what you're passionate about, what inspired you to develop this proposal, what makes it special to you, and why it's important for your community. This can be recorded on a mobile phone, or any available device.
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TIPS TO MAKE YOUR APPLICATION SHINE!

- * Write in your own words - only use AI as a support tool
- * Explain the root causes your project addresses
- * State clearly what will change because of your project
- * Show how it reaches people beyond your immediate circle
- * Demonstrate the project's sustainability beyond the grant
- * Show how your budget matches your activities
- * Don't forget your story! Your 'why' for doing this is powerful





READY TO APPLY FOR THE GROWING ROOTS GRANT 2026?



**SUBMIT YOUR
APPLICATION HERE**



If you need support, have any questions or requests, or are having technical problems with your application, please contact us at: microgrants@poweredbyroots.org

