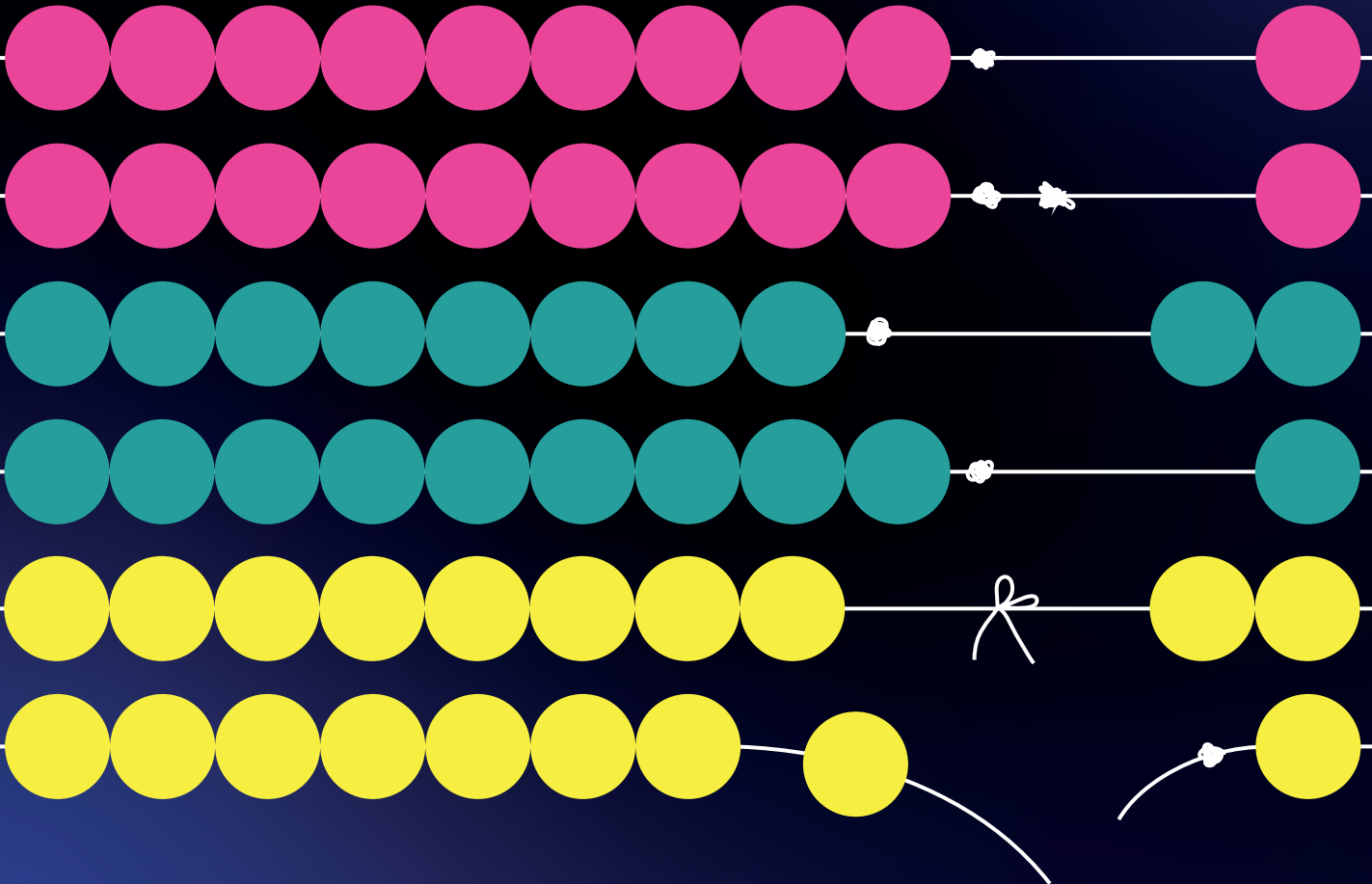




Robert Bosch
Stiftung



Building Power for Economic Justice

Application Guidelines for the Funding Program



Building Power for Economic Justice

Application guidelines for the funding program

The Robert Bosch Stiftung is launching a new funding initiative to address economic injustice. This funding program prioritizes work led by people with lived experience of economic inequality. The program has three focus areas: care, technology, and wealth. We are allocating €1.6 million and will offer grants to eight organizations for up to five years to foster long-term, systemic change. This document outlines the application process, eligibility criteria, and key focus areas. If your organization is working to reduce economic inequality, we encourage you to read on and consider applying.

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About this call for applications

“Building Power for Economic Justice” is a new funding program from the Robert Bosch Stiftung aimed at enabling economic justice. The funding program will give out €1.6 million to eight organizations over a period of up to five years.

We want to fund organizations that work to tackle structural economic injustices led by those who have lived experiences of economic inequality. The funding program has three focus areas: care, technology, and wealth. We are interested in organizations working on these issues intersectionally: for example, addressing unpaid care work and its impact on wealth gaps, exploring how technology access affects marginalized communities, or examining the connection between wealth concentration and political representation. We particularly want to support activities that amplify the voices of communities under-represented or excluded from economic decision-making. We hope that this funding program will contribute to building a more equitable world.

Funding decisions will be made through a two-stage application process involving experts with lived experience.

Organizations can apply in English, German, Spanish, and French.

We have produced a “frequently asked questions” section at the end of these guidelines. If you have a question which is not answered here, consider attending one of our information sessions on which you will find more information below.)

About the Robert Bosch Stiftung

The Robert Bosch Stiftung is one of the largest private foundations associated with a corporation in Europe. The foundation works on issues around education and health, as well as global issues such as peace, migration, climate change, immigration, society, democracy, and inequality.

The work of the Inequality Team focuses on tackling inequality through collective action and the inclusive design of political processes. We aim to reduce inequalities by taking an intersectional approach and by working with communities that experience inequalities. For this funding program, we are committed to working in a participatory way, meaning that funding decisions will also be made by those affected by injustice.

To support us in this way of working, we are working with [The Social Investment Consultancy \(TSIC\)](#) to design and deliver this funding program in an inclusive and accessible way. We want to make sure that this call for proposals reaches underrepresented groups and organizations who have direct experience of economic injustice.

What do we mean by economic injustice?

At Robert Bosch Stiftung, we see economic injustice as one of the biggest challenges of our time. When we talk about economic injustice, what we think of is the following:

It is evident—in many aspects of life—that money, opportunities, and resources are distributed unfairly in our societies, and that this unfairness is growing in many places. These unfair systems make it hard for many people to live well, particularly individuals who experience multiple forms of exclusion in our society.

We want to support efforts that challenge these unfair systems. Our goal is to help create a world where everyone has a good chance to live well and have their voice heard, regardless of where they come from or their situation.

We believe that people who have experienced economic injustice should be involved in making these changes. Their experiences and ideas are crucial to finding effective solutions.

Our approach focuses on three important areas: recognizing the voices of people who are usually not heard, ensuring people who have lived through economic inequality are represented in decisions, and working to share resources and opportunities more globally.

We know that economic injustice covers a lot of different areas; however, for this round of funding, we are focusing on three specific areas where we would like to support communities to create change:

Care: Caring for other people, for nature, for community, and for oneself is essential to the economy. The lack of recognition for the fundamental importance of care leads to many injustices. That care work, often done by women, is mostly unpaid, underpaid, or undervalued is just the tip of the iceberg.

Technology: Not everyone has the same chance to use or benefit from new technologies. The development and use of technology often lack awareness of injustices. This can worsen existing inequalities.

Wealth: A small number of people and corporations own most of the money and power. This makes it hard for others to have a say in important decisions or to improve their lives.

Who and what will we fund

Through the “Building Power for Economic Justice” funding program, we are looking to support organizations that:

- Have an annual budget between €100,000 and €3 million.
- Are registered organizations with charitable aims related to economic justice.
- Are based in East, South, and South East Asia/Europe, Central and North Asia/Latin America, the Caribbean/Southwest Asia, North Africa, and Sub-Saharan Africa, or operate at a global or regional level.
- Do not currently receive funding from RBSG.

We also consider:

- Applications from coalitions or partnerships. In these cases, not all partners need to be registered organizations. In coalition applications, we expect explicit mechanisms of power-sharing that ensure smaller and grassroots organizations have meaningful involvement in decision-making.
- Intermediary organizations that enhance participation of the groups they work with, although priority will be given to direct community empowerment.

We aim to fund organizations’ ongoing work and learning, prioritizing organizational development rather than specific projects. We offer multi-year support to encourage organizations’ long-term sustainability. The grant period can be between two and five years. The size of the grant can be a total of €100.000 to €400.000 per organization or coalition spread over the years of the grant duration.

What we will not fund

The following activities are not eligible for funding:

- **Infrastructure costs:** Construction of new buildings or major investment.
- **Historical or pre-existing costs:** Expenses incurred before the official start date of the grant.

- **Grants for individuals or for personal benefit:** Individual scholarships, therapy costs, and similar personal grants.
- **Commercial printing:** Subsidies for books that will be sold commercially.
- **Media development:** Production of movies or similar media products.
- **Technology development:** Creation of technological applications or tools.
- **Academic research:** Research without an explicit link to fostering economic justice in partnership with communities affected by economic injustice.
- **Service delivery:** Individual costs for services such as nurses or social workers that benefit individuals, rather than supporting the overall work of the organization.

Note: **Running infrastructure costs** can only be covered under overhead expenses, which **are capped at 20 %** of the total grant.

The focus of this funding program

We know that economic injustice covers a lot of different areas. This call for applications focuses on three specific areas in which we would like to support communities to create change: care technology and wealth. Each of these three areas plays a key role in economic inequality. While we focus on care, technology, and wealth, we recognize that these areas intersect with other issues, such as migration, disability rights, and environmental justice. We encourage applicants to highlight these intersections in their work.

Care

Caring for other people, for nature, for community, and for oneself is essential to the economy. The lack of recognition for the fundamental importance of care as an economic activity leads to many injustices. Care work for children, the elderly, or for people with disabilities is predominantly done by women. That this work is either unpaid or underpaid, and not valued enough, is one source of economic injustice disproportionately affecting women and marginalized communities. The nature of care work affects both care providers and recipients. We consider the experiences and rights of those receiving care, particularly individuals with disabilities or chronic illnesses. We welcome applications from organizations addressing any aspect of the care economy and its impact on economic inequality, including those working at the intersection of care and disability rights.

Technology

Technology is changing how our world works. It affects who gets information, who has power, and who gets to make decisions. Often, people who already have little money also have less access to technology. This means they have less say in what technology is developed and how it is used. We want to support

groups working to ensure technology helps everyone, not just the privileged majority in society. If your work looks at how to make technology fairer and more accessible, especially for people who have previously been left out, we would like to hear from you.

Wealth

Right now, a small number of people and various large corporations own most of the money and have power in our economy and politics. This affects who makes important decisions and who gets opportunities to improve their lives. We are interested in supporting groups that are trying to change this. If you are working on ways to share wealth more fairly or to give more people a say in economic decisions, we want to know about your ideas.

Intersectionality and overlapping themes

We understand that economic justice issues often intersect with other areas, such as migration, disability rights, gender equality, and environmental justice. We encourage applicants to highlight these intersections in their work. Your organization does not need to fit neatly into just one of our focus areas. Instead, we want to understand how your work addresses systemic inequalities across multiple dimensions. When describing your work, feel free to explain how it connects different issues and communities.

The application process

We have tried to develop a straightforward, fair, and transparent application process. The application process for this funding program has two stages:

Stage 1 (open application)

In this first stage, we want to get to know your organization and understand your work. You will complete a virtual form that includes:

- Multiple-choice questions about your organization.
- Questions about your team.
- Open-ended questions where you can tell us about your work.

Stage 2 (shortlisted applicants only)

We will invite shortlisted applicants to the second stage of the application process. This stage will involve completing a more detailed application form.

After this phase, the jury selects eight organizations for funding for a minimum of two years and a maximum of five years.

We will offer shortlisted organizations additional support through the Stage 2 application process.

The application form is available here:

<https://ausschreibung.bosch-stiftung.de/economic-justice>

The open questions have a free text field with a maximum limit of 200 words. The form does not time out and can be saved while you are working on it. All questions need to be answered. However, we do not require long written answers.

Key dates

Application opens

November 4, 2024

Application closes

December 15, 2024

Info sessions

Monday, November 11, 2024. 9 am–11 am CET/Berlin time

Thursday, November 21, 2024. 4 pm–6 pm in CET/Berlin time

Notification of shortlisted applicants

The week of January 20, 2025*

Stage 2 Applications

The shortlisted candidates will have four weeks to work on their applications. They will be requested to submit their final applications (for Stage 2) at the end of February 2025.* Please keep in mind that key persons involved in the application should be available in this period.

* Please note that this date may change if the number of applications is extremely high.

Overview of the application process

1.

1. Call for applications opens

Starting November 6th 2024 you can access the application guide and application form in English, German, French and Spanish here www.bosch-stiftung.de/en/economic-justice

2.

2. Self-test

Check whether you meet the core criteria of the call for applications.

3.

3. Submit your proposal (Stage 1)

Answer the short questionnaire explaining what your organization does and for what you are seeking funding. The closing date is December 15th, 2024.

4.

4. First screening

The teams at The Social Investment Consultancy and the Robert Bosch Stiftung will screen the proposals between December 2024 and January 2025.

5.

5. Shortlisted groups submit a full application (Stage 2)

In late January 2025, successful candidates will be invited to and supported in submitting a full application. Non-successful candidates will be informed.

6.

6. Second Screening

In March 2025, a jury of experts from the field of economic justice will review the shortlisted applications and make the final selection for funding.

7.

7. Start of funding for selected groups

In April 2025, the selected organizations will be informed about the decision for funding and invited to a kick-off workshop.

Information sessions

We will run information sessions for potential applicants to support organizations in applying for this funding. During the sessions, you can ask questions so as to better understand the application process. All questions raised during the sessions will be added to our frequently asked questions (FAQ). Please follow this [link](#) to register for the sessions.

If you have questions on this call for applications and the application process, please contact the team at TSIC supporting this call for applications at ejfunding@tsiconsultancy.com

Transparency and accountability

We have designed this funding program to be transparent, fair, and with decision-making led by those with lived experience of economic inequality.

Our approach to this funding program is driven by the values laid out in our [mission statement](#) and [code of conduct](#). We want our work to be respectful, cooperative, responsible, and effective.

We are committed to moving towards more participatory ways of working. As part of this, we aim to be transparent about power dynamics so as to build stronger and more equal partnerships.

We want to learn from this funding call and share what we have learned with other funders to explore how we and others can support systemic change, build power among underrepresented groups, and develop policy that is driven by lived experience.

At Robert Bosch Stiftung, we are working to shift power in philanthropy by supporting those who have lived through the experience of economic injustice. This funding call aims to learn from and share insights about making funding more accessible and equitable. We hope to support grassroots efforts and amplify voices often unheard, and if we succeed, we want to share what we have learned. This reflects our commitment to transparency, learning, and fostering positive change in how funding works.

Feedback and concerns

We are committed to continuous improvement and value your input on our funding process. We encourage you to contact us if you have any feedback, suggestions, or concerns regarding this funding call. Your insights are crucial in helping us enhance our processes and better serve our applicants.

To share your thoughts or raise any issues please write to

ejfunding@tsiconsultancy.com

Your mail will be read by the team at The Social Investment Consultancy, which supports the implementation of this funding program. We assure you that all feedback will be considered carefully, and any concerns will be addressed promptly and thoroughly. Your feedback will be treated anonymously to ensure you can share your thoughts freely. Your experience matters to us, and we are dedicated to maintaining an open, transparent, and responsive funding process.

Glossary

Economic decision-making: The process of making choices about how economic resources like money are shared. Economic decision-making is focused on policies and practices that impact who gets money, who gets to access technology, and whether care is seen as an economic contribution to society.

Economic injustice: Unfair economic structures and practices that lead to unequal distribution of resources, opportunities, and societal benefits, often disproportionately affecting marginalized groups.

Economic justice: Organizing economic structures and practices in a fair way so that everyone has access to the resources, opportunities, and benefits they need to succeed. Economically just practices address inequalities in areas such as the development, ownership, and access to technology, the distribution of wealth, and how care is included in the economy.

Financial year: A financial year is a 12-month period used by businesses and organizations for accounting and tax purposes. It may or may not align with the calendar year and is used to track income, expenses, and financial performance. For example, in Brazil, the financial year aligns with the calendar year, running from January to December, which is typical for many regional businesses. In South Africa, the financial year runs from April to March, allowing organizations to plan their budgets and operations according to fiscal policies. In Japan,

the financial year runs from April to March, which also reflects the country's economic cycles and influences business planning and reporting.

Intergenerational wealth: The transfer of economic resources, for example, money or property, and advantages, for example, power and influence, from generation to generation. Intergenerational wealth often contributes to inequality as some people have an advantage just because of who they are born to.

Intermediary organizations: Organizations act as a link between large donors and small or grassroots organizations. These organizations receive funding and then distribute it to smaller or local groups. While they don't deliver services directly, they support others by offering guidance, training, and project management, acting as a bridge to ensure projects are successful and reach their intended audience.

Intersectional practice: An approach recognizing that people face multiple, overlapping forms of inequality or discrimination simultaneously. For example, someone might experience challenges because of gender, race, and economic status. Intersectional practice means seeing someone's whole experience rather than just one identity. Taking an intersectional approach also centers people with lived experiences of inequality in finding solutions. The goal is to change who has power and how decisions are made. An intersectional practice asks people to think about their advantages and how to share power more fairly. It also calls for people to reflect on how others are disadvantaged and build solidarity across different forms of exclusion and discrimination. Intersectional practice supports creating fair and more effective solutions to complex social problems. You can learn more about our work on intersectionality [here](#).

Lived experiences: Lived experience (of economic injustice) refers to the unique knowledge and insights gained by individuals who have directly experienced economic injustice, such as poverty or inequality due to disability, race, or gender. It recognizes those with first-hand experience as equals and experts, challenging traditional ways of doing things and having essential and valuable ideas about how to achieve social justice. These unique perspectives allow them to foster collective power for themselves and their communities and pursue visions for transformative justice. Recognition of their expertise includes: ensuring their representation so as to boost participation in decision-making; as well as the redistribution of resources to ensure equitable access for groups who have been historically or intersectionally disadvantaged.

Structural disadvantage: Disadvantage or inequality people face due to how society and institutions work. An example of structural disadvantage is the cost of higher education, meaning that those from poor backgrounds are less

likely to be able to afford to get qualifications that would enable them to earn more money.

Structural economic injustices: Practices and systems that create inequalities, especially in care, technology, and wealth.

Underrepresented groups: Communities that have historically been excluded from economic decision-making processes and benefits, including but not limited to migrants, refugees, women, people with disabilities, and racialized groups.

Wealth distribution: The way economic resources are shared across society, focusing on addressing wealth held by a small number of individuals and firms, creating significant power imbalances in both economic and political spheres.

FAQs

1. What has informed the Foundation's current funding round?

The evaluation of the first funding experience of the Inequality Team at the foundation from 2020 shed light on the importance of recognizing and uplifting the leadership, knowledge, and narratives of communities and people with lived experiences of inequalities. It also emphasized the need for representation, meaningful participation, and accountability across program design, implementation, and learning phases. Moreover, this experience evidences the power dynamics inherent to the funder-grantee relationship and the need for trust-based grant-making, such as core, flexible, and multi-year funding. Consequently, the Inequality Team aims to (gradually) apply this commitment to its own funding decisions by championing systemic approaches and taking risks for under-supported organizations (grassroots, small/unknown/unregistered organizations working on invisible issues). We thank the grantee partners, the Inequality Advisory Group, and other close partners who contributed their insights to these reflective spaces, which shaped the team's revised strategy and significantly contributed to shaping this funding initiative.

2. Why have we picked these eligible regions?

We have had the experience that geographic openness enables learning across continents and contexts and have therefore chosen to allow organizations from nearly all continents to apply. We have some prior experience in funding the eligible regions, allowing us to build upon established relationships and understanding. However, we recognize that local organizations are the true experts in their contexts.

3. Why are the application materials only available in German, French, Spanish, and English?

We are committed to language justice and aim at being accessible for partners with deep knowledge of the regions in which they are working. For practical reasons, we can only offer materials in the languages spoken in the teams at Robert Bosch Stiftung and our partner TSIC. We are aware that this is a limitation as we do not even cover all the main languages from the regions where we accept applications. Please be aware that interpreters are available to support info sessions and calls in Spanish and French. Our administrative processes are in German and English only. We will accommodate Spanish and French, but our contracts will be in German or English.

If language presents a significant barrier for your organization, please note this in the accessibility support section of your application. We will do our best to accommodate your needs where possible within the bounds of our resources and capabilities.

4. What accessibility support can you provide?

This is our first time providing accessibility support during a funding application process. We do not have a catalog of accessibility measures we offer but we will try to accommodate your requests as needed. We commit to informing you as soon as possible if we are unable to accommodate your needs.

5. Can you provide more information about Stage 2?

For Stage 2, you will be invited to submit a full proposal through the foundation's application portal. You will be asked to respond to some standardized questions about your goals, your planned activities, and your way of working. We will also ask for a detailed budget plan.

6. Can we use artificial intelligence (AI)?

We want to simplify the process by ensuring that applicants can access various forms of support. However, any information provided in funding applications must be truthful and precise.

7. Who are the jury members?

We have selected six jury members through an open call. However, we will not publish their information until after the application deadline to ensure they are not contacted and can remain neutral throughout this process.

8. Are current grantees of Robert Bosch Stiftung eligible to apply for this funding call?

This funding call is mainly looking for new partners. Here is what you need to know:

- If you are currently getting funding from the Inequality Team at Robert Bosch Stiftung, you are not eligible for this funding call.
- If you are an existing partner and you are interested in this funding call, you should contact Robert Bosch Stiftung directly to discuss your options.
- If you are part of a group applying together (a consortium), none of the partners in your group should be currently receiving any form of support from Robert Bosch Stiftung. If you are considering applying as part of a coalition where one partner is a current grantee of the foundation, please contact us directly to discuss your specific situation before applying.