

## **CHEJ's Small Grants Program – 2024 Round 2:**

### ***Application Guidelines***

The Center for Health, Environment & Justice's (CHEJ) Small Grants Program is for grassroots groups working on environmental health and justice issues related to the presence of "toxics" (toxic chemicals or hazardous substances) in their immediate communities. CHEJ prioritizes community-based organizations aiming to have local, state and regional impact through their own strategies and actions. This program is designed to reach people from low-wealth communities and communities of color who are impacted by environmental harms related to toxics.

CHEJ believes that no social change on behalf of the exploited comes without strong community-based organizations.

**Please carefully read and follow the guidelines below before you apply:**

#### **What Does this Grant Cover?**

1. This grant program supports:
  - a. *Grassroots community groups fighting an environmental health harm in their community.*
  - b. *Grassroots community groups looking to build up their own leadership, increase capacity or provide training and education.*
  - c. *Projects that help grassroots groups move toward their goals by building leadership, increasing capacity or providing training and education.*
2. Projects that align with CHEJ's programs have a better chance to succeed in securing funding.
3. Grassroots communities of color, low wealth, rural and urban groups are encouraged to apply. Should you be a part of a coalition, each group within the coalition may apply individually as well as the coalition itself.
4. CHEJ supports a wide range of environmental health issues; however, we have a limited amount of funds that can only support a specific focus. If your organization's work is outside of this focus, it does not mean it is less critical, it just means that it will not be considered for this grant.

## What is Included and Excluded from this Grant?

### *Projects or activities that we are open to funding:*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local or statewide, group/community-specific efforts or campaigns</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educational activities directly connected to the strategic plan stated in your application</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meetings to develop organizing and/or strategic plans, and events that are part of that plan</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equipment and/or subscriptions for improving communications (i.e., Zoom subscriptions, internet access, laptops, etc.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organizational membership and outreach</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fundraising efforts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training leaders to go door-to-door for community organizing efforts</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General in-person events or activities</li> </ul>	

### *Projects or activities that we will not fund:*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community gardens or farming</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal assistance</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disaster relief and/or emergency response</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislative lobbying or policy work</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental testing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organizations outside of the United States and its Territories</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Film or documentary production</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Market campaigns</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food insecurity interventions (e.g., food banks, food donations, etc.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National organizations and/or campaigns</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Groups with an annual budget over one million dollars (\$1,000,000)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural environmental protection or conservation efforts</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individuals</li> </ul>	

If you think your project meets these guidelines, then submit an application according to one of the three tiers discussed below.

## How to Apply

Your grant application must be submitted as a Tier 1, Tier 2 or Tier 3 organization. Whichever tier your organization fits in depends on your annual budget. See the chart below on page 3. CHEJ evaluates each application against the other applications submitted in the same tier.

**Tier 1:** Small organizations and all-volunteer groups with **budgets that do not exceed \$50,000**. The grants available in this tier range from \$1,000 to \$5,000. Tier 1 organizations can find an application at <https://chej.org/chej-small-grants-program/small-grants-tier-1>.

**Tier 2:** Mid-sized to larger organizations with **budgets over \$50,000, but not exceeding \$250,000**. The grants available in this tier range from \$5,000 to \$10,000. Tier 2 organizations can find an application at <https://chej.org/chej-small-grants-program/small-grants-tier-2>.

**Tier 3:** Large organizations with **budgets over \$250,000, but not exceeding \$1,000,000 (one million dollars)**. The grants available in this tier range from \$10,000 to \$20,000. Tier 3 organizations can find an application at <https://chej.org/chej-small-grants-program/small-grants-tier-3>.

The **deadline** for submitting your application is **Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024, at 11:59 PM EDT**.

If you have questions about whether your group/project will meet the guidelines, please contact Hunter Marion at [hmarion@chej.org](mailto:hmarion@chej.org) or Sharon Franklin at [sfranklin@chej.org](mailto:sfranklin@chej.org).