



Fall 2025 Grantseeker FAQs

About the Justice Fund of Georgia

- **What is the Justice Fund of Georgia (JFG)?**

The Justice Fund of Georgia is a funder collaborative working to advance justice reform and transformation across Georgia. We invest in grassroots, justice-impacted-led groups and youth justice initiatives that are driving systemic change.

- **What do we mean by “justice reform and transformation”?**

We use this term to describe efforts that move beyond surface-level change to fundamentally shift how justice is pursued in Georgia. This includes reducing reliance on incarceration and detention, dismantling punitive and harmful systems, advancing community-based and restorative alternatives, elevating the leadership of justice-impacted people, and building long-term, systemic solutions rooted in equity, healing, and accountability.

- **What are JFG’s funding priorities?**

JFG funds Georgia-serving organizations focused on:

- Decarceration and alternatives to incarceration
- Ending youth detention and punitive discipline
- Community-led safety and restorative justice
- Leadership development among justice-impacted people
- Advocacy and policy reform
- Narrative change and public education strategies

- **What kinds of organizations should apply?**

The Justice Fund of Georgia is seeking applications from organizations that are deeply engaged in adult and youth justice reform and transformation work in Georgia. This includes:

- Grassroots, community, and justice-impacted-led groups advancing community safety, decarceration, advocacy, and narrative change.
- Youth justice organizations and initiatives focused on ending youth incarceration and detention, building restorative alternatives, and elevating youth voice and leadership.
- Eligible applicants can be 501(c)(3) nonprofits, fiscally sponsored projects, or community/youth-led formations. We welcome applications from both established and emerging organizations, especially those rooted in communities most impacted by the justice system.

Application Process

- **Will there be an opportunity to learn more before applying?**

Yes. The Justice Fund of Georgia held an informational webinar on October 1, 2025 at 3:00 pm for grantseekers, and all interested applicants were strongly encouraged to attend. This session provided an overview of the Fund, our priorities, and guidance on the application process. [View the recording at the bottom of the page here.](#)

- **What is a “Letter of Connection” (LOC)?**

The LOC is a short application form that introduces your organization, your current work, and your alignment with JFG’s funding priorities. It serves as the first step in our open call process.

- **Who is eligible to apply?**

Applicants must be:

- A 501(c)(3) nonprofit, fiscally sponsored project, or grassroots/youth-led collective
- Actively working in justice reform and transformation in Georgia

- **What are the key dates for this grant cycle?**

- Letter of Connection Release: October 3, 2025
- Informational Webinar for grantseekers: October 7, 2025
- Letter of Connection Deadline: November 10, 2025
- Proposals Invited: December 9, 2025
- Deadline to submit proposal: January 15, 2025
- Notification and Disbursement: February, 2026

- **What is the grant size and term?**

- **Grassroots, Community, and Justice-Impacted Led Track:** \$10,000–\$25,000 in general operating support (one year)
 - **Youth Justice Track:** \$5,000–\$25,000 in general operating support (one year)
- Award amounts are determined based on organizational size and program needs.

- **How much funding is available in this cycle?**

A total of **\$500,000** to be distributed across both tracks.

- **Who makes the final funding decisions?**

Final grant decisions are made by the **Steering Committee** of the Justice Fund of Georgia, which includes representatives from:

- United Way of Greater Atlanta
- Public Welfare Foundation
- Annie E. Casey Foundation
- Heising-Simons Foundation
- William Josef Foundation
- Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta

Common Questions

- **Do I need to create a new narrative for this application?**

No. You are welcome to reuse language or content from other proposals or reports.

- **Are these program grants or general operating grants?**

These are general operating support grants.

- **When will I hear back about my application?**

Notifications and disbursements are expected in **February 2026**.

- **What if my organization is not selected?**

We may provide referrals or share resources with applicants not selected for funding. In addition, all Letters of Connections received by the Justice Fund of Georgia will be made available to our Funder membership to help enhance other opportunities for funding.

- **Can organizations apply to both tracks?**

Generally, no. Please choose the track (Grassroots or Youth Justice) that best reflects your mission and work.

- **What if my question wasn't answered here?**

No problem, send an email to JusticeFund@unitedwayatlanta.org and someone will be back in touch with you ASAP.

Questions received from grantseekers during the informational webinar

- **If you receive direct funding from any of the funding organizations (e.g., Public Welfare or Annie E. Casey), is your organization still eligible?**

Yes. Receiving funding from one of the Justice Fund's member foundations does not affect your eligibility to apply.

- **How many grants do you anticipate giving in each track?**

We anticipate awarding approximately 15–20 grants total across both tracks, though the exact number will depend on the size of requests and alignment with priorities.

- **When you say justice-involved, are you only speaking about people who have been incarcerated, on probation, or on parole?**

No. We use a broad definition of "justice-impacted" that includes anyone directly affected by the criminal legal system, such as incarceration, probation, parole, detention, or other forms of system involvement. We also include survivors of crime as justice-impacted people.

- **Will you accept an application from a partnership where two organizations are working together?**

Yes. Partnerships are welcome. One organization must serve as the lead applicant and fiscal sponsor (if applicable).

- **Are there any geographic requirements to the scope of work?**

Yes. The work must benefit communities in Georgia at the local, regional, or statewide level. Organizations may be based outside of Georgia if they can demonstrate strong, ongoing work

inside Georgia.

- **Is it possible to get the questions that are asked in the Letter of Connection before going live into the application?**

Yes. To make this process easier, we are sharing the LOC questions as a PDF on the [grant homepage](#).

- **If our fiscal sponsor is based in DC but our organization does work in Georgia, are we eligible to apply?**

Yes. Eligibility is based on where the work takes place, not the location of the fiscal sponsor.

- **For organizational leadership with lived experience, do board members count?**

Yes. We consider leadership broadly to include staff, founders, and board members who bring lived experience of the justice system.

- **Does this include immigrants detained?**

Yes. We are especially interested in receiving applications that address crimmigration work — the intersection of the criminal justice system and the immigration system. For example:

- Work on behalf of immigrants detained in local jails or detention centers
- Efforts to address conditions in detention centers or jails for immigrants
- Advocacy against the criminalization of migration
- This does not include straight immigration work, such as asylum or refugee advocacy.

- **Are organizations serving detained immigrants in Georgia eligible for funding?**

Yes, if their work is connected to the intersections of the criminal justice and immigration systems as described above.

- **Can you say more about the intersection with immigrant justice? Does that only apply to immigrants who have been impacted by the criminal justice system?**

Yes, the focus is on immigrant communities impacted by the criminal legal system. Work that addresses detention, deportation through the courts, or criminalization of migration is eligible.

- **The grants are \$10,000–\$25,000. If organizations working together submit one application, does that mean the max request will be \$25,000 for one fiscal year? And if they apply separately, can they both apply for the max of \$25,000?**

Yes. For a joint application, the maximum request is \$25,000 total for one fiscal year. If two organizations apply separately as distinct applicants, each may request up to \$25,000.

- **Are you expecting this to be an annual funding cycle going forward?**

We very much hope that the Justice Fund of Georgia will be sustainable over the long term. We anticipate offering another grant cycle in 2026 and are building toward making this an ongoing reality beyond that.