



## **SOLVE Southern Movement Grants FAQ**

### **What are SOLVE Southern Movement grants?**

SOLVE Southern Movement Grants are designed to provide up to year-long support for non-partisan, community-based groups in their efforts to fight for a participatory, inclusive, and expansive democracy. Grants can be awarded up to \$25,000.

### **How do I apply for the SOLVE Southern Movement grant?**

Representatives from community groups and organizations based in North Carolina, Tennessee, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, and Florida may apply at our application portal: [scsj.org/SOLVEgrants](https://scsj.org/SOLVEgrants).

### **What is required to be eligible for a SOLVE Southern Movement Grant?**

*The eligibility requirements are:*

- 1) Organizing for equitable and inclusive representation with under-represented communities (read more detail about the communities prioritized for funding in the following questions);
- 2) Advancing a vision for how voting rights advance social, economic, racial, political, and environmental justice; and
- 3) Work in North Carolina, Tennessee, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida, or Texas.

### **Must my organization or group have 501(c)(3) nonprofit status to apply?**

No. While this grant cannot fund lobbying, political activity, or work conducted by 501c4 organizations, 501c3 status is not required to apply. Please be aware that the grant funds will be considered taxable for entities that do not have tax-exempt status. Please contact us at [solve@scsj.org](mailto:solve@scsj.org) or call us at 910-970-4900 if you have questions about your group's tax status and/or eligibility.

### **What groups and activities are prioritized for funding?**

We will prioritize organizations for funding with the following:

- Led by Black, Latinx/Hispanic, Indigenous, Asian American Pacific Islander, queer and trans, rural, low-wealth, and/or working-class communities
  - Leadership is defined by individual members of these communities who hold decision-making authority over the organization's or group's priorities. Examples of decision-making roles could include executive

directors, founders, presidents, board members, an advisory council, or group leaders

- Have annual operating budgets under \$400,000
- Are SOLVE Network partners
- Are 2021 “Adopt-a-Jurisdiction” redistricting grantees and applicants
- Were Participants in Community Redistricting Organizations Working for Democracy (CROWD) Academy trainings

### **If my group doesn't meet the above priorities for funding, can we still apply?**

Yes, if your group meets the eligibility requirements listed earlier in this document, you can still apply for funding. However, your application will not be given priority consideration.

### **What kinds of projects will SOLVE Southern Movement Grants fund?**

In 2022, we are providing support to projects which fall into one of the following areas:

- 1) Community Education, Outreach, Engagement, and Mobilization** (general education, outreach, and education projects)
  - a) Example: An organization launches a 4 month campaign through social and traditional media to combat disinformation about the 2022 elections and provide accurate voting information to community members.
  - b) Example: An organization seeks to translate all of its materials to Spanish and other languages in order to provide more accessibility to different community members.
- 2) Collaboration** (collaborative projects between multiple organizations to encourage new partnerships)
  - a) Example: An organization focused on voting rights collaborates with a tenants' union to host a joint event focused on how voting connects to making housing policy changes.
- 3) Communications**
  - a) Example: An organization seeks to create a mini-documentary showcasing the stories of voting rights and redistricting advocates in their community in order to recruit new advocates.
- 4) Gap Funding for Civic Engagement Projects** (groups needing additional funding to complete in-progress projects)
  - a) Example: if a group had a budget to complete a video, but the budget fell short and they couldn't raise the deficit, they could apply for grant funding to finish the video.

### **Are there any projects you cannot fund?**

SOLVE cannot fund:

- Any work conducted by 501(c)4 organizations;

- Projects which include voter registration activities;
- Projects which include [lobbying](#) or [partisan activity](#);
- Projects that do not have a component of one or more of the four SOLVE Southern Movement Grant focus areas listed above; and
- Projects with indirect costs equal to or greater than direct costs.

**I understand that you can't fund voter registration. Is my group or organization excluded from applying if we engage in this work?**

Not at all. This grant will only fund the activities described in your project proposal, so your group or organization's other programmatic work will not affect your application for a Southern Movement grant. We welcome you to submit a project proposal which does not include voter registration activities.

**What are direct vs. indirect costs?**

Direct costs are expenses specific to the program or project, while indirect costs are expenses required to run the organization as a whole. You are welcome to include both in your project budget, but indirect costs should be less than 50% of the total budget (i.e. indirect costs should not equal or exceed direct costs).

Examples of direct costs include stipends for volunteers, staff or contractor time to work on the project, or meeting expenses. Examples of indirect costs include computer software, office supplies, or postage.

**How do I apply and when is the deadline?**

Without exception, all applications are due by Wednesday, July 6, at 11:59 p.m. Central Time.

- Applicants may learn more by going to [scsj.org/SOLVE22](https://scsj.org/SOLVE22).
- Applicants may find the formal "Request for Proposals" at [scsj.org/SOLVERfp](https://scsj.org/SOLVERfp).
- The SOLVE application portal is available at [scsj.org/SOLVEgrants](https://scsj.org/SOLVEgrants).

Questions or concerns? Please contact us at [solve@scsj.org](mailto:solve@scsj.org) or 910-970-4900.