



Frequently Asked Questions - FAQs

What is the Crisis Response Fund?

The Crisis Response Fund is designed to address the critical funding gaps faced by grassroots organizations when planning and responding to crises impacting LGBTQI+ individuals and communities.

It is supported by contributions from the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO).

The Fund is committed to providing grassroots organizations, projects or individuals with low-barrier, accessible micro-funding opportunities that address both immediate and short-term needs of the LGBTQI+ community facing displacement.

Why is the Crisis Response Fund only focusing on some countries?

The Crisis Response Fund is a short duration, micro/small grant. Focus regions and countries have been carefully chosen based on current and emerging displacement crises directly impacting LGBTQI+ individuals and organizations.

In its initial year, the Fund will focus on organizations based in the **Middle East & North Africa (MENA), Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region only** and then proceed to invite organizations from **The Americas, West, South and Central Africa**.

In its second year, the Fund will endeavor to expand its reach and invite applications from parts of **Eastern Europe** and **Asia Pacific**.

Can anyone apply for a funding grant?

The Fund is dedicated to supporting locally led initiatives and grassroots organizations working for the protection and advocacy of LGBTQI+ individuals and communities in or facing displacement.

Priority will be given to queer-led organizations and those having a refugee and/or Internally Displaced Persons focus.

Applicants are advised to refer to the relevant geographic region when applying. Each funding round is specific to a certain region at that time.



What is covered under the Crisis Response Fund?

The Fund will focus on providing funding opportunities for organizations through three main grants:

- **Crisis & Emergency Response Services Grant**

What can you apply for under this Grant?

- *Emergency crisis response &/or contingency planning*
- *Safe houses & transitional housing (rent)*
- *Queer friendly temporary accommodation*
- *Emergency transport & cash assistance*
- *Medical & first aid assistance*
- *Mental health services (crisis counseling)*
- *Food & personal care supplies*
- *Staff costs for crisis operations (excluding long term staff costs)*
- *Other essential crisis services including support to survivors of gender based violence or abuse due sexual orientation or gender identity*

- **Crisis Capacity Building Grant**

What can you apply for under this Grant?

- *Emergency response trainings*
- *Crisis management & capacity building*
- *Crisis monitoring & evaluation tools*
- *Relevant workshops, conferences & networking events*
- *Other community mobilization crisis efforts*

- **Crisis Advocacy Grant**

What can you apply for under this Grant?

- *Crisis advocacy campaigns*
- *Lobbying efforts, or challenges to discriminatory laws and policies*
- *Promote protective legislation for LGBTQI+ individuals, including migrants and refugees*
- *Advocacy & public awareness campaigns*
- *Novel policy research and reports about LGBTQI+ rights and protections*



- *Legal cases/advocacy for HRDs, activists, detention (excluding strategic litigation)*

Please refer to the [website](#) for detailed information or email crisisfund@rainbowrailroad.org

How much money can I apply for?

Funding requests will be assessed on the project activities, impact and area of assistance. Organizations can apply for a one time micro grant of **up to CAD \$25,000**.

Long term or continued funding for projects is not available at this time.

Can I reapply for the grant if I have been funded once?

As a short term micro grant that is focused on supporting and enhancing queer-led/focused organizations, we encourage maximum engagement through a variety of organizations and projects across different regions.

In **very** exceptional circumstances some organizations/projects might be considered for repeat funding.

Can unregistered community grassroots organizations apply?

Yes, all grassroots organizations, registered and unregistered are invited to apply. For unregistered organizations additional information might be required depending on the project scope and funding request.

How many employees should an organization have to apply?

The number of employees depends on the project and its scope. The applicant or organization should demonstrate that they have the skills, resources, or partnerships needed to complete the project.

How will the applications be assessed?

Each application will be assessed on its merit against an internal screening criteria, selected projects will be presented to the internal review committee for final approval.



Applications will be assessed but not limited to the following criteria:

- Organization Mission, Purpose & Leadership
- Project Scope (urgency, focus areas, type of crisis, intersectionality)
- Impact Potential
- Financial Accountability & Budget
- Organizational Capacity & Accountability
- Sustainability & Risk

Special consideration will be given to grassroots organizations led by individuals with LGBTQI+ lived experience and/or refugee-led backgrounds, as well as to projects that emphasize LGBTQI+ intersectionality, inclusivity, and offer innovative solutions to displacement challenges.

How long will it take to know about the application outcome?

The first round of applications will close on February 15, 2025 at 11:55 pm EST.

Application outcome will be announced in March 2025. The first round of payments will be made in April 2025.

Will you provide feedback on unsuccessful applications?

We are unable to provide detailed feedback on unsuccessful applications, where possible we may be able to provide brief feedback.

Are there any reporting requirements?

Yes, all eligible organizations approved for funding will be required to provide detailed reports on the activities undertaken, project outcome and impact.

Approved organizations will be required to submit two reports during the project period:

- (1) Mid-Project Report
- (2) Final Report and Budget highlighting the activities undertaken and impact achieved

Have more questions or need further information?

Please contact us at crisisfund@rainbowrailroad.org