



decolonize!

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

What's CRIF?

The Children's Rights Innovation Fund ("CRIF") is a grantmaking organization and donor learning community which exists to change the way we fund and practice children's rights globally. That means that we use grant opportunities (like this one) to learn from children and youth activists and share what we learn about what can be done differently (and better!) with those who have the power to make better choices. We want children and youth activists to have the tools and support they need to change the world now.

We're learning as we go, which means that we don't always get it right, or have everything figured out. But, we are listening. And, in everything we do, we work directly alongside children and youth activists, and their allies and give them the power to make real decisions that will impact themselves and those around them.

What's "decolonize!"?

CRIF was founded in 2020, at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and as Black Lives Matter protests were happening around the world. Because CRIF is a new fund that wants to do things differently, we thought carefully about what we should fund first. We wanted to create something that allowed for children and youth to connect and share their stories, but also wanted to raise awareness on injustices that are at the root of what harms children. We decided to start with racism and colonialism and the ways they have always violated the rights of children and youth around the world; and how it continues to affect people generally everyday.

We also needed to decide on where we would start our work. As a new fund, we could not start with the entire world. We decided to start our work with a part of history that changed so many of our communities and countries for hundreds of years—the Transatlantic slave trade. Therefore, we start our work in West Africa and the Americas (South, Central & North America and the Caribbean), following the path of the TransAtlantic slave trade and the damage it has caused in the past and continues to cause today.

Next, we thought of who we might fund. While racism and colonialism impact all people, we know that children and youth— particularly those who identify as Black, African and of African descent— most often face the impact of racist and colonial beliefs and policies. We believe that Black children and youth have a lot to teach us about approaches on how to tear these things down.



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You mentioned the 'Collaborative', what's that, and why is it important?

For CRIF, doing things differently means putting real decision-making power in the hands of children and youth activists. In November 2021, CRIF welcomed its first Participatory Grantmaking Collaborative. This team of eight (8) Black child and youth activists from West Africa and the Americas are very diverse. Collectively, they speak more than 4 languages and come from 8 countries: Benin, Sierra Leone, the Gambia, Peru, Brazil, Colombia, Barbados and the United States.

The Collaborative members had never met before they were selected but we brought them together (virtually) over a total of 4 days, along with an incredible team of language interpreters, and our staff. They were able to share their stories and experiences, and to offer their perspectives on what's important to them both now and in the future. These thoughts and ideas have become this decolonize! grantmaking strategy. This same group will eventually decide which applicants will receive the grants. CRIF remains deeply grateful to each member of the Collaborative for their continuous contributions to this process.



What type of work will CRIF support?

We know that racism and colonialism can look very different from place to place. Therefore, we want to learn from you what it looks like in your life and in your community. And, we want to know what you would do to help change the challenges that racism and colonialism create.

We hope to fund any work that addresses racism and colonialism and is led by Black children and youth. That could mean work that addresses other issues as well, such as climate justice, or gender justice, or land rights, sexual and reproductive health, racial bullying, discrimination of any kind or arts and culture. We are also interested in funding a wide range of projects that can also include school-based organizing, public awareness campaigns, peer-to-peer learning spaces, or anything else you might be working on.

If you're not sure, and you meet the criteria above, please join any of our information sessions. Or, just apply. We would love to learn more about you and your work.

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Ok, cool! so who can apply?

We really want to support the ideas and dreams of Black child and youth activists. In an ideal world, if we had unlimited funding, we would support anyone who applied. We're unfortunately not able to do that, and so we thought carefully about who amongst us are most exposed to risk and harm - those who are most vulnerable - as well as those who are ordinarily excluded from opportunities like these. With that in mind, we invite you to apply if you:

1. Identify as an activist of Black, African, and/or African descent.



2. Are between the ages of 13-27. We want to specially invite youth and child activists who are from the LGBTQ+ community, and those living with disabilities to apply.



3. Are applying as a part of a group: - this group does not need to be legally registered but must be led and driven by young people.

- Core grants: A core grant is a fully flexible grant, intended to support the operations of your organisation. They're meant to support a group's continued existence, and enable it to continue doing work it is already doing. If the application is for a core grant, the group must have been working together for at least 6 months, and must be able to show evidence of this as requested.
- Project based grants: A project based grant is a grant intended to support a specific project. These are not intended to support an organisation's core operations, but instead are to support or enable the execution of a project. Applicants for project based grants do not necessarily need to have worked together previously, but the application must be submitted by a group of at least 3 individuals who intend to execute the project together



4. Reside in rural areas, or vulnerable urban areas within the Americas (South, Central & North America and the Caribbean), or West Africa (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte D'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo). Because we want to ensure that those among us who are most at risk, or least likely to have grant opportunities are included, we especially invite persons from migrant and/or otherwise displaced communities to apply.



5. Are in some way affiliated with a community-based or social movement organization or organized group that supports Black, African & African descent children, and youth. This could mean that you are employed by the organisation, you volunteer with them or that you have joined with them in support of their work for at least six (6) months in total. The organisation should be able to confirm your relationship to them, if asked.

**How much funding can I receive?**

CRIF is accepting proposals from Black children and youth activists for grants ranging between USD \$500 and \$10,000. Please let us know how much funding you will need when you complete your application. While we may not be able to fund your entire project, we would like to know as much as possible about the costs you expect.

Ah, so if I'm eligible, can my organization get core funding?

As long as your organisation has been working for at least 6 months, then we invite you to apply for either core funding or project-specific funding. The group does not need to be formally registered, but you must be able to show or tell us about the work that you have been doing and would like to continue.

What about funding for a specific project, are you providing that?

Definitely! Project-specific funding, for work led and driven by children and youth, is available to any group of 3 or more individuals who plan to work on this project together, as long as they meet all the other criteria. That means that even if you're not a group that has worked together before, but you want to join with friends or community members to do a specific project, we would love for you to apply. We specifically want to support community and school-based organising, direct support, arts, and cultural development, play and sport, and rights education but would love to hear from you, even if you're not sure that your project idea fits exactly into those categories.

Alright, this all sounds interesting. How do I apply?

That's great, we're really excited to receive your application! Please apply by visiting [this link](#). You will be asked to answer some questions which tell us a little about who you are, and the work that your group is either doing, or would like to be doing. This application will allow you to reply to these questions by either submitting a video, an audio file or by writing. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us at decolonize@crifund.org and someone will reply to you as soon as possible.



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Okay, so if I submit my application, what happens next?

After applications close on May 9th, 2022, CRIF staff will do a bit of screening to ensure that you are eligible to apply and that you meet the criteria we shared. After that, members of the collaborative, supported by youth advisors will review the applications and ultimately decide which applications will be funded. We know that unfortunately, we won't be able to fund all of your incredible projects, but we definitely will let you know whether or not you've been funded. If you're not funded, we invite you to stay in touch with us anyway, because we'll be sure to let you know when there are other opportunities available.

Sounds good, can you remind me of the important dates again?

Sure. Applications open on March 30th, 2022 and close on May 9th, 2022. We expect to notify candidates by the end of June, but will provide updates on social media if anything changes.

If I need more information, where do I go?

Throughout the application process, CRIF will be hosting a few zoom information sessions and also co-hosting some sessions on social media with our Collab members! That's a great place for you to get to meet some of the people who worked together to create this call for proposals, to learn more about us and get any questions answered. The dates for those sessions will be announced on social media, so be sure to follow us there. We're on Instagram and Twitter @crifund1. You can also find us on Facebook and TikTok @CRIF. If you have any questions you'd like answered right away, feel free to reach out to us via decolonize@crifund.org and someone will respond to you as soon as possible!

