

# Binational Resilience Initiative 2023 Grant Guidelines



## Our Strategy

The [Binational Resilience Initiative](#) (BRI) aims to increase the capacity of the Cali-Baja coastal region to survive and thrive in the face of shocks and stresses driven by climate change, as well as other natural, economic and social pressures. BRI supports high-impact, multi-benefit projects and programs that strengthen our capacity to anticipate, mitigate and adapt to our changing climate. Our complex region calls for unique intersectional projects and collaborations to build binational climate resilience. Together, [San Diego Foundation](#) (SDF), the [International Community Foundation](#) (ICF), [Resilient Cities Catalyst](#), and the [San Diego Regional Climate Collaborative](#) are committed to expanding the impact of BRI in the region. Through a community-guided process, BRI recognizes the interdependent environmental, economic and cultural relationship between the coastal communities in the Cali-Baja region, from Oceanside in the U.S. to Ensenada/San Quintín in Mexico.

Through this initiative, we focus on advancing projects and programs that help increase our region's resilience in a binational approach through the following strategies:

- Leverage the climate work of our BRI project partners to develop binational resources, knowledge and tools to advance coastal resilience.
- Support new and existing cross-border collaborative projects and programs that allow us to connect, adapt, innovate and thrive together.
- Support stakeholders working on improving, restoring and conserving our shared ecosystems.
- Support organizational capacity that advances binational coastal resilience.

## The Need

The Cali-Baja region encompasses a diverse region spanning the entire greater San Diego area in the U.S. and the Pacific side of Northern Baja California, Mexico, between Tijuana and Ensenada/San Quintín. Our focus area within the Cali-Baja region encompasses a wide variety of landscapes from mountain ranges, desert mesas, wetlands, coastal watersheds and the coastline.

Despite political boundaries and the U.S.-Mexico border, communities of the Cali-Baja region are uniquely connected through environmental, economic, cultural and other interdependencies between San Diego and Baja California Norte. This interconnected and complex region calls for unique intersectional projects and collaborations to build binational resilience. Yet, due to the dissection of the region by the international border, the use of our shared coastal, freshwater and land resources has been driven by divergent approaches, priorities and goals. The management and planning for the best future we can build as a region is restricted by the lack of a binational, regional approach that limits the strengths we can lend to each other. This disconnected approach limits our capacity to adapt to climate change, manage and conserve our shared resources, and thrive together.

## The Funding Opportunity

The Binational Resilience Initiative seeks to support projects that help build the resiliency of the Cali-Baja region. We aim at developing a network of binational partners working to advance the resiliency of the region between San Diego County and Baja California Norte coastal communities, as well as enable a diversity of funding mechanisms that generate innovative binational approaches and thriving communities. Grantmaking goals for BRI in 2023 are to expand binational climate collaboration, advance coastal resilience from an integrated, regional approach and provide capacity-building support to organizations working to increase our communities' coastal resilience.

Funding requests can range between \$25,000 – \$50,000 per year for each partner organization working together on a collaborative project. Total funding for a collaborative project cannot exceed \$100,000.

- Partner organizations collaborating can apply separately (one proposal per partner). In the application portal, each organization should indicate their partner organization and submit a letter of commitment.
- Partner organizations can also apply together with one lead applicant (one proposal for all partners). For proposals with two or more organizations, the lead applicant can receive a maximum of \$50,000 per year and will be legally responsible for sub-granting and allocating remaining funds to each co-applicant in accordance with the approved budget.

## Specific Criteria for BRI Grants

- Focus on coastal resilience: where the work proposed helps increase our region's understanding of climate change effects on our coastal resources.
- Effective demonstration of binational collaboration: where the work proposed supports true binational collaboration among U.S. and Mexican community-based organizations, scientists, researchers, educators and/or government agencies.
- Contributes to coastal resilience in two or more of these areas:
  - Climate relevance: Directly or indirectly supports efforts that mitigate, adapt or create resilience to impacts from climate change.
  - Economic prosperity: Supports efforts for organizations to obtain additional impact dollars where the project/grant serves to support catalytic funding needs for the organization/project.
  - Knowledge sharing: Supports education and/or communication of binational resilience needs and climate-related impacts.
  - Organizational resilience: Supports efforts related to the long-term resilience and health of the organization, such as resources that directly support organizational capacity building and staff needs.
  - Research: Creating new knowledge, filling gaps in collective understanding and synchronicity with existing research.
- Nonprofit organizations in Mexico or the U.S. should be the lead applicant but partnerships with other stakeholders are highly encouraged.
- The budget can include subgrants between nonprofit organizations if both are working on different areas within the same proposed project.
- The budget can include a maximum of 15% of the total amount requested as indirect costs or overhead.

- Funding requests can range between \$25,000 - \$50,000 per year for each partner organization working together on a collaborative project. Total funding for a collaborative project cannot exceed \$100,000.
- Partner organizations collaborating on one project can submit separate applications (one proposal per partner). If this is the case, in the application portal, each organization should indicate its partner organization and submit a letter of commitment describing the roles of all partners.
- Partner organizations can also apply together with one lead applicant (one proposal for all partners). For proposals with two or more organizations, the lead applicant can receive a maximum of \$50,000 per year and will be fiscally responsible for sub-granting and allocating remaining funds to each co-applicant in accordance with the approved budget.
- Financing can be requested for up to 12 months, but if the project requires it, implementation can be extended up to a total of 18 months. However, any time extension may not increase the budget.
- Larger funding requests may require additional information and documentation.

## Application Process

The timeline for the Binational Resilience Initiative grant cycle is outlined below. San Diego Foundation reserves the right to modify these dates, and any other terms or conditions outlined in these grant guidelines. All applications must be submitted online by 5:00 p.m. PDT on May 5, 2023 (5:00 p.m. hora local de Tijuana, Baja California). We cannot accept proposals by email; we strongly recommend submitting your application as early as possible to avoid technical issues with the online application.

## Grant Cycle Timeline in 2023

All hours are in U.S. Pacific Daylight Time (PDT), which matches exactly the local time in Tijuana, Baja California. For example, 3:00 p.m. PDT is equal to 3:00 p.m. local time in Tijuana, Baja California.

| Dates                                  | Milestones   |
|--|--|
| <b>April 10, 2023</b>                  | Grant application opens  |
| <b>April 17 - 3:00 p.m. PDT</b>        | 1st optional meeting to support potential grantees prepare their proposals (virtual)   |
| <b>April 27, 2023 - 10:00 a.m. PDT</b> | 2nd optional meeting to support potential grantees prepare their proposals (in-person) |
| <b>May 5, 2023 - 5:00 p.m. PDT</b>     | End of the application period (online portal closes)                                   |
| <b>May 8, 2023 - June 16, 2023</b>     | Evaluation of grant applications   |
| <b>June 23, 2023</b>                   | Notifications go to selected grant proposals   |

## Eligibility

- SDF will prioritize funding projects taking place in and benefiting communities of concern or historically under-resourced communities that could be considered underserved or vulnerable to economic, environmental and social impacts.
- Projects should be within the BRI focus region which includes the entire greater San Diego area in the U.S. and the Pacific side of Northern Baja California, Mexico, between Tijuana and Ensenada/San Quintín.
- Projects should be completed within a 12- to 18-month timeline. Please note that we fully understand the dynamic and unpredictable circumstances we all find ourselves in as it relates to the COVID-19 pandemic and will be flexible where possible.
- Each proposal must be led by a nonprofit with 501(c)(3) public charity status in the U.S. or led by a *donataria autorizada* in good standing with the Tax Administration Service/SAT in Mexico.
- A U.S. 501(c)(3) public charity may serve as a fiscal sponsor for another applicants, including Mexican nonprofits, to administer the grant and provide regular financial reporting to SDF.
- Any organization may be part of more than one proposal but may only serve as the lead applicant for one proposal.
- SDF can only make grants directly to nonprofit organizations with U.S. 501(c)(3) status. Therefore, Mexican nonprofits whose U.S. partners in the project cannot serve as their U.S. fiscal sponsor will be assigned to ICF as their U.S. fiscal sponsor. ICF can serve only as U.S. fiscal sponsor, but ICF cannot have any other role in projects applying for BRI funding. Thus, ICF will not be considered the U.S. partner fulfilling the role of a U.S. partner or binational collaborator in Mexican-led projects.
- SDF will not fund endowments, existing obligations/debt, scholarships or projects that promote religious or political doctrine.

## About the Review Process

Proposals will be reviewed jointly by SDF staff, as well as staff from our partner organizations and the BRI Task Force that will evaluate proposals based on relevance to the Binational Resilience Initiative 2023 Grant criteria described above. Reviewers adhere to a strict conflict of interest policy and other internal controls to ensure that grant funding is distributed based on the merits of each proposal. SDF staff will submit final recommendations to the SDF Board of Governors for final review and approval.

## Questions

If you have questions regarding the BRI application process or the grant program in general, please contact Yamilett Carrillo or Nancy Torres at [environment@sdfoundation.org](mailto:environment@sdfoundation.org).



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