



2020 APPLICATION GUIDELINES



Read these guidelines carefully before completing the Red Umbrella Fund online application form.



Submit a completed application online in English, Spanish, French, or Russian at:
<http://www.redumbrellafund.org/grantmaking/apply-grant/>
before 1 August 2020 (18:00 CET).

***** PLEASE NOTE: FOR SECURITY PURPOSES WE WILL ONLY ACCEPT APPLICATIONS THROUGH OUR ONLINE SYSTEM *****

You may submit a draft of your application before 15 July 2020 to applications@redumbrellafund.org for early feedback

BEFORE YOU START:

1. Is your group or network led by sex workers? Yes
 No

2. Does your group or network recognise that sex work is work? Yes
 No

3. Is your group or network interested in contributing to building and strengthening the sex workers' movement? Yes
 No

If your answer is “**yes**” to all these questions: continue reading these guidelines.

If you have answered “**no**” to a question, then your group or network is **not** eligible for funding from the Red Umbrella Fund.

1. Who can apply?

The Red Umbrella Fund provides funding to sex worker-led organisations and networks that are:

- based in any country;
- registered or unregistered;
- led by people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

OUR CRITERIA

If you wish to apply, your group, organisation or network must fulfil these 3 criteria:

1. Be led by sex workers for the benefit of sex workers.

Each of these points must be met to qualify for this criteria:

- ✓ *Decision-making body: At least 60% of the decision-making body must be sex workers. This can include former and current sex workers, but with at least an aspiration to include current sex workers. Or if this is not met, why not and how do you ensure sex workers are in control of the organisation's decisions?*
- ✓ *Spokespeople: At least 60% of the people who speak on behalf of the organisation must be sex workers. If not, why not and how do you then ensure the voices of sex workers are heard?*
- ✓ *Staff: At least 33% of the staff are sex workers, with the same contracts and working conditions as other staff in the organisation.*
- ✓ *Focus: The main focus and – where relevant – membership of the organisation or network is on benefiting sex workers.*

2. Be committed to connect to and strengthen the sex workers' rights movement.

Your group must be connected to other sex workers' organisation(s), networks and allies and willing to share your experiences in order to strengthen the sex workers' rights movement.

3. Agree with the principles of the Red Umbrella Fund.

4.

All our work is guided by these values and operating principles:

- **Autonomy**: We respect self-determination of sex workers.
- **Sex work is work**: We oppose criminalization and all forms of stigma and discrimination against sex workers. We recognize that sex work is work.
- **Rights-based**: We commit to supporting advocacy for rights-based policies, laws and practices that are rooted in evidence of what works, as analyzed from sex workers' perspectives.
- **Ownership**: We believe that sex workers must be in charge of design, implementation, and evaluation of programs and policies that affect them.
- **Diversity**: We embrace the diversity of sex workers and support sex workers of all genders, sexualities, and life experiences. We also recognize that some sex workers are particularly impacted by intersecting forms of marginalization and commit to including them in all our work.

- **Accountable:** We commit to advocacy and funding processes that are transparent and accountable to the sex workers’ rights movement.
- **Learning:** We commit to learning and using what we learn to inform our grantmaking and advocacy and to demonstrate the value of working collaboratively.

WE DO NOT FUND

- Organisations that are not led by sex workers;
- Organisations that have a project *with* or *for* sex workers, while the organisation as a whole has a broader focus;
- Organisations that seek to end or criminalise sex work;
- Organisations exclusively providing social or medical services, income-generating activities or credit programmes;
- Organisations founded by or structurally dependent on political parties, government agencies or religious institutions;
- Businesses;
- Academic research;
- Individual requests.

OUR PRIORITIES:

These priorities will be used by our sex worker-led review panel to select applications for funding:

For local and national groups or networks:	For regional networks working at international levels:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Strongly contribute to the Red Umbrella Fund’s vision, mission, and strategic priorities; b) Working effectively towards change for sex workers’ rights in governments, policies, laws, enforcement, legal systems, service provision or public opinion; c) Demonstrate an inclusive approach towards marginalised groups within the sex workers’ movement; d) Are committed to community involvement in decision making processes and shared leadership; e) Have annual budgets below 200.000 euro. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Strongly contribute to the Red Umbrella Fund’s vision, mission, and strategic priorities. b) Most strongly demonstrate commitment to: i) build (organisational and advocacy) capacity of sex worker groups in their region; ii) link groups to each other as a way to strategically collaborate and build solidarity; and iii) increase the visibility of local and national concerns in key regional or global advocacy spaces to improve the human rights and work conditions of sex workers; c) Demonstrate an inclusive approach towards marginalised groups within the sex workers’ movement; d) Are committed to community involvement in decision making processes and shared leadership; e) Have annual budgets below 300.000 euro.

2. What kind of grants do we give?

Type of funding

The Red Umbrella Fund provides flexible **core funding** to support the general coordination, functioning and strengthening of a group, organisation or network and its members. Core funding can be used to cover self-identified needs of the grantee partner including registration costs, rent, salaries, advocacy, (peer led) capacity building, membership meetings, activities, etc. Our funding is flexible, therefore groups, organisations, and networks can adjust plans during the grant.

2020 Grantmaking

The Red Umbrella Fund wishes to affirm its commitment to sex worker-led, participatory, core, flexible funding. The global coronavirus pandemic has impacted sex workers in every region, every country, and every local community. The Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) will meet through an online platform this year, but the remainder of our grantmaking will remain the same.

Your applications will be reviewed by individuals from your communities. Please use the space provided in the application to describe your context (question 4) and provide additional information in the comments (question 7).

When determining your budget for your request (question 6), you may also want to describe how your plans have been or may be impacted both by the pandemic and by the governmental response to the pandemic.

If you have any other questions regarding this year's application process you may contact us at applications@redumbrellafund.org.

Size of the grants

Grants are between **8.000 and 80.000 EURO for two years**. See the table below for more details. Please note that the final grant amount awarded can differ from your initial grant request.

Grant sizes (Euro) (for 2 years)	Criteria
8.000 - 40.000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o <i>Groups and networks that are less than 2 years old;</i> <li style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>and/or</i> o <i>Groups working at local level (city, province, etc.).</i>
8.000 - 50.000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o <i>National level groups and networks of <u>more than 2 years</u> old.</i>
8.000 - 80.000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o <i>Regional networks of <u>more than 2 years</u> old working at international levels.</i>

Number of grants

The Red Umbrella Fund expects to make about 25 grants in 2020. The exact number of grants will depend on the actual grant sizes as determined by our sex worker-led Programme Advisory Committee (PAC), the participatory decision makers in our grantmaking structure.

The Red Umbrella Fund is generally committed to awarding 30% of its grantmaking budget to regional networks.

Where are the grants made?

The Red Umbrella Fund is committed to fund and support sex workers' rights movements in all regions of the world. Our sex worker-led International Steering Committee has directed PAC to make grants relatively evenly distributed over four geographic regions: Latin America, Africa, Asia Pacific, and North America/Caribbean/Europe/Central Asia.

3. How to apply?

*****This is the first year we are only accepting online applications.*****

Increased concerns around digital security are impacting our community. This year, to prioritise the safety and security of your data, we will only accept applications through our online system.

This allows us to better protect the confidential information of your organisation and your members. We are available to answer questions at applications@redumbrellafund.org and encourage groups to begin the application as soon as possible to allow time to identify any questions you may have.

- ⇒ [Go to: http://www.redumbrellafund.org/grantmaking/apply-grant/](http://www.redumbrellafund.org/grantmaking/apply-grant/).
- ⇒ Select the online form for your preferred language. Fill in the online form (**English, French, Spanish, or Russian**) and type of organisation (**group or network**)
- ⇒ **Groups** are organisations that work at a local or national level. The membership is most commonly individual sex workers. Your organisation is also a group membership is made up of other organisations within one country.
- ⇒ **Networks** are organisations that work at an international level and the membership is other organisations across multiple countries. Some networks work across multiple countries on a shared issue or within a specific geographic region.
- ⇒ Submit your application online by **1 August 2020 (18:00 CET)**.

Tips:

- ⇒ You can save your online application and return to it system later. You may resume using the link at the top of the online form. You will also receive an email with a link to your online form.

Red Umbrella Fund Application Form for Groups 2020

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Save my progress and resume later | [Resume a previously saved form](#)

Resume Later

In order to be able to resume this form later, please enter your email and choose a password.

Your Email:

A Password:

Confirm Password:

- ⇒ On the last screen you will have a preview of your application, before you **submit** you may use the “Print this form” function to save a copy of your application before you submit.
- ⇒ If you want to work offline, there are forms (.doc) available for you to download at <https://www.redumbrellafund.org/grantmaking/apply-grant/> You can prepare the application offline and copy-paste your answers into the online form.

However, you must submit your final application through the online system.

Help!

- Questions? Check our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page here: <https://www.redumbrellafund.org/grantmaking/apply-grant/faq/>
- For other questions about the application form or process email us at applications@redumbrellafund.org
- If you want advice on your draft application, e-mail us **before 15 July 2020** at applications@redumbrellafund.org. You may use the offline form to submit a draft for feedback but you must use the online system to submit your final application to be considered.
- We strive to respond to questions within two working days.
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Additional tips for completing the application form:

- ✓ Make sure you send in the 2020 Red Umbrella Fund application through the online forms. We do not accept application forms via email.
- ✓ Make sure you fill out the correct application applications have slightly different questions.
 - ✓ Fill out the Groups application if your organisation’s members (individuals or organisations) are all located within one country.
 - ✓ Fill out the Networks application if your organisation’s members (organisations) are located across multiple countries.
- ✓ Respond to all questions - incomplete applications will not be considered.
- ✓ Make sure the contact details of your references are complete and correct. Be sure one of them is from a sex worker-led organisation.
- ✓ An international panel of sex workers will read your application and select the new grants using the priorities shared above. Use the application form to explain why your organisation best meets these criteria and priorities!
- ✓ Be mindful that many organisations are in need. Please only ask for the funds your organisation actually needs and can spend well within two years.
- ✓ You can include additional information or links in the comment section.
- ✓ If your group or network has not had much income before, you are not likely to get a grant of more than 20.000 Euro.
- ✓ Try not to wait until the last moment to send in your application – you may risk missing the deadline because of a computer or internet failure.
- ✓ When you finish your application, on the final screen please review all the information carefully before you hit “submit” and **print and save a copy for your records**.
- ✓ You will receive an automatic confirmation by e-mail. If you do not receive a confirmation e-mail, we have not received your application. You must re-submit your application so be sure to save a copy before you submit the final

application.

4. What happens next?

All applicants will be informed of the final decision before 1 November 2020.
The following timeline summarises the selection process:

August – September:	Applications are screened by staff using criteria and references
August – October:	Applications are peer-reviewed by the sex worker-led Program Advisory Committee (PAC) using the criteria and priorities mentioned above
October:	Final selection is made by the PAC using also the funding (restrictions) available and considering geographic and gender diversity
October:	Grants selection is approved by the sex worker-led International Steering Committee (ISC)
26 October – 1 November:	All applicants are informed of the final selection.
15 December	All new grant contracts are made.

About the Red Umbrella Fund

The Red Umbrella Fund is the first global fund *by* and *for* sex workers. Since its creation in 2012, the Red Umbrella Fund has made 187 grants to sex worker-led groups in over 60 countries. Grantees are selected through an international review process in which sex workers are the main decision makers.

The Red Umbrella Fund believes that change will only be achieved through strong, collaborative movements of sex workers advocating for their rights, with the support of allies. Sex workers themselves are the best positioned to know what is needed for them, and best placed to do something about it. Our strategic priorities focus on promoting sex workers' human rights, building capacities of sex worker groups, and strengthening and sustaining the sex workers' rights movement.

Where does our funding come from?

The Red Umbrella Fund is extremely grateful to the following funders for their support in 2020: American Jewish World Service, Comic Relief, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Count Me In!), Foundation for a Just Society, Gates Foundation, Mama Cash, Oak Foundation, Open Society Foundations, Wellspring Philanthropic Fund, and a few wonderful individual donors (you know who you are!).

More information?

For more information, go to: www.redumbrellafund.org or contact us at info@redumbrellafund.org.

