



2021 APPLICATION GUIDELINES



Read these guidelines carefully before completing Red Umbrella Fund's 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 2021 (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 10 July 2021 to applications@redumbrellafund.org for early feedback

BEFORE YOU START

The application process begins with an eligibility questionnaire.

The Online Application will begin with a series of questions designed to assist you in determining if your organisation is eligible to apply for a Red Umbrella Fund grant. If you are not sure how to answer any of these questions, you may contact us at applications@redumbrellafund.org.

Does your organisation fall into any of the following categories, which disqualify you from funding?

- Organisations that seek to end or criminalise sex work
 - Yes
 - No
- Organisations exclusively providing social or medical services, income-generating activities or credit programmes
 - Yes
 - No

- Organisations founded by or structurally dependent on political parties, government agencies or religious institutions
 - Yes
 - No
- Organisations that are businesses or whose main strategy is making a profit
 - Yes
 - No
- Organisations requesting this grant for academic research
 - Yes
 - No
- Requests from individuals
 - Yes
 - No
- The organisation has a project with or for sex workers, while the organisation as a whole has a broader focus.
 - Yes
 - No

If you answered “yes” to *any* of these questions, you are not eligible to apply.

If you answered “no” to **all** of these questions, you may **continue with the eligibility questionnaire**:

1. Is your organisation led by 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. ◦ Yes
◦ No

- Spokespeople: At least 60% of the people who speak on behalf of the organisation must be sex workers. ◦ Yes
◦ No

- Staff: At least 33% of the staff are sex workers, with the same contracts and working conditions as other staff in the organisation. ◦ Yes
◦ No

2. Is your organisation’s main focus and - where relevant - membership of the organisation or network is on benefiting sex workers? ◦ Yes
◦ No

Please note that to be eligible, your organisation should be focused on (directly) benefiting sex workers, and not, for example: only working with former sex workers; only working with children of sex workers; or focus on the entire LGBTI community including sex workers, but without an exclusive focus on sex workers.

3. Is your organisation committed to connect to and strengthen the sex workers’ rights movement?

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

- Your organisation is connected to other sex workers’ organisations, networks and allies. ◦ Yes
◦ No

- *Your organisation is willing to share your experiences in order to strengthen the sex workers' rights movement.* Yes
 No

4. Does your organisation agree with the values and operation principles of Red Umbrella Fund?

- **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. Yes
- **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. No
- **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.

If you answered “no” to *any* of these questions, you are not eligible to apply.

If you answered “yes” to all these questions: **You are eligible to apply!**

1. Who can apply?

OUR PRIORITIES:

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 International Steering Committee (ISC) has directed our Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) to evaluate your application based upon the following factors:

1. Does your organisation's work contribute to Red Umbrella Fund's vision and mission?
2. Does your organisation demonstrate an inclusive approach towards marginalised groups within the sex workers' movement?
3. Does your organisation demonstrate a commitment to community involvement in decision making processes and shared leadership?

For organisations whose members are individuals OR work within a single country, PAC looks at this additional factor: Does your organisation work towards change for sex workers' rights in government, policies, laws, enforcement, legal systems, service provision or public opinion?

For organisations whose members are organisations AND work in multiple countries, PAC looks at this additional factor: Does your organisation work to: i) build (organisational and advocacy) capacity of sex worker groups in their region; ii) link groups to each other as a way to jointly share, strategise and build solidarity; 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?

Finally, PAC prioritises organisations with annual budgets below the following threshold amounts:

- 200,000 euros for organisations whose members are individuals OR work within a single country;
- 300,000 euros for organisations whose members are organisations AND work in multiple countries.

The Application includes questions intended to provide the PAC with information about your organisation to answer these questions. You may find it useful to have these in mind as you prepare your Application.

2. What kind of grants do we give?

Type of funding

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 grantees can adjust their plans during the grant.

2021 Grantmaking

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.

When determining your budget for your request (“Grant Request Information” - Section 7), you may also want to consider the following:

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.

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.

Grant sizes (Euro) (for 2 years)	Criteria
8.000 - 40.000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Organisations that are less than 2 years old; and/or o Organisations working mainly at local level (city, province, etc.).
8.000 - 50.000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Organisations working mainly at a national level or international level with individual members that are more than 2 years old.
8.000 - 80.000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Regional networks (organisations whose members are mostly organisations and work across multiple countries) that are more than 2 years old.

Number of grants

Red Umbrella Fund expects to make 25 to 30 grants in 2021. 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 making body in our grantmaking structure.

Where are the grants made?

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: Africa, Asia Pacific, Latin America, and North America/Caribbean/Europe/Central Asia.

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

3. How to apply?

*****We are only accepting online applications.*****

Increased concerns around digital security are impacting our community. 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**).
- ⇒ You will be redirected to an Eligibility Questionnaire.
- ⇒ Once you have confirmed your eligibility, proceed to the Online Application Form.
- ⇒ Submit your application online by **1 August 2021 (18:00 CET)**.

Your applications will be reviewed by individuals from your communities. Please use the space provided in the application to describe:

- Your organisation’s background and vision, including any of your organisation’s successes you’d like to highlight (Section 2)
- The context your organisation is working in including any progress or challenges for sex workers in that context (Section 3)
- Your organisational structure including describing how your organisation reflects a commitment to sex workers’ involvement (Section 4)
- Organisational relationships including your references (Section 5)
- Your financial situation, i.e. budget for the last two years (Section 6)
- The grant request information including a description of what you hope to use the funding for as well as a budget (Section 7)

You may also provide information that is not included in any of your other answers in “Additional Information” (Section 8). You may find it useful to share links to materials that are relevant to your application.

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 10 July 2021** 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.

Additional tips for completing the application form:

- ✓ Make sure you send in the 2021 Red Umbrella Fund application through the online forms. We do not accept application forms via email.
- ✓ Respond to all questions - incomplete applications will not be considered.
- ✓ The Contact Information includes the email-address for both your organisation and your Contact Person. Be sure to check these carefully. These are the two addresses our automated system will use for sending notifications regarding the outcome of your grant. We will also use these to verify any inquiries about your application from any other email address.
- ✓ Make sure the contact details of your references are complete and correct. Be sure one of them is from a sex worker-led organisation.
- ✓ Please spell out any abbreviations or acronyms the first time you use them. They may have a different meaning in other regions.
- ✓ 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 “Additional Information” - Section 8.
- ✓ 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 the end of November 2021. The following timeline summarises the selection process:

June - 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 Red Umbrella Fund

Red Umbrella Fund is the first global fund *by and for* sex workers. Since its creation in 2012, Red Umbrella Fund has made 216 grants to sex worker-led organisations in over 60 countries. Grantees are selected through an international review process in which sex workers are the main decision makers.

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?

Red Umbrella Fund is extremely grateful to the following funders for their support in 2021: American Jewish World Service, Comic Relief, Dreilinden, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Count Me In! 2.0), Foundation for a Just Society, Mama Cash, Oak Foundation 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.