



# The Conservation Alliance

2024-25 Confluence Program Grant Application

Application Deadline: Thursday, September 21, 2023 at 11:59PM PT

**The Confluence Program, launched in 2021, seeks to expand The Conservation Alliance's network of grantee and business partners to represent a coalition of everyone working to protect natural places. The Confluence Program is a first step in our efforts to help create new systems and structures that bring all of the groups, organizations, and businesses committed to this work closer together to protect our shared natural places. Read more about the Confluence Program and previous grantees [here](#). Please note that the criteria and funding focus areas for the Confluence Program are adjusted slightly each year, so similar projects may not be funded in each cycle.**

**Each year, The Conservation Alliance awards four grants to groups led by historically racially excluded people (Asian, Black, Brown, Hispanic, Indigenous, Latin American, and additional communities who identify as People of Color). Each grantee receives \$100,000 over two years (\$50,000 per year) for their efforts to protect a natural place. This grant term for our next cohort of Confluence Program grantees will be from January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2025.**

**Please read all information below before completing your application:**

- **Accessibility:** The Conservation Alliance is committed to making a concerted effort to find and offer accommodations to applicants who are in need of additional support. Some examples of reasonable accommodations are: offering to find interpreters or readers, accepting oral submissions in lieu of written statements, identifying spaces with reliable internet access close to your home, and providing assistance to those who may struggle with our software. We cannot guarantee we can meet every need, but welcome the conversation if you believe you need a reasonable accommodation in order to submit your application. Please reach out to [confluence@conservationalliance.com](mailto:confluence@conservationalliance.com) to begin the conversation.
- **Character Count:** Please limit your answers to the specified character count indicated in the questions.
- **Saving Your Responses:** This application does not have the ability to save your responses. We recommend using a separate document to compile your answers before filling out the application.
- **Terms:** A glossary of terms used in this application is available at the end of this document.

- **Eligibility Criteria:** Projects must meet the following criteria to be considered for funding:
  - Organizations do not need to have non-profit / charitable status (e.g., 501c3) or be fiscally sponsored to apply for and receive funding.
  - Organization/group must be located in the United States or Canada.
  - Organization/group must self-identify as being led by historically racially excluded people, including groups working with mixed status immigrant families. The Conservation Alliance considers "leadership" in this case as those with decision-making power on behalf of the entirety of the organization or effort.
  - Organizations/groups must have had a general operating budget less than \$500,000 in three of the last five years to qualify. This does not include federal or state pass-through funds.
  - Projects must seek to protect, conserve, or restore land and/or water in their efforts to foster a planet where natural places, wildlife, and people thrive together. Restoration projects include ecosystem recovery through rewilding or rehabilitation of land and water.
  - Projects must be able to demonstrate how they are centering solutions led by impacted communities.
  - We do not fund the following types of projects:
    - Research and/or whitepapers
    - Outdoor youth and adult leadership education
    - Conference, event, festival, or panel (including both in-person and virtual)
    - An expedition
    - An individual
    - A fundraiser, one-time event, or gala
    - General marketing or awareness-raising projects
    - Project focused solely on creating a book, video, or movie
    - Maintenance or management of areas currently designated as protected by a local, state, or national agency, including general stewardship projects, trail maintenance, conservation corps projects, etc
    - Recruitment costs to fill open positions
    - 501c4 work and lobbying
  - Organizations/groups that have previously been funded through the TCA Confluence Program are able to re-apply for funding if their grants will end prior to January 1, 2024.
  
- **Focus Areas:** We prioritize the following types of projects:
  - Projects that Include an intersectional approach to conservation that addresses the social, cultural, and environmental needs of a community or region.
  - Geographies that support climate resiliency and biodiversity.
  - Conservation projects that improve access to close-to-home recreation or healthy outdoor spaces, including/particularly those that are accessible by public transportation.
  - Projects that increase opportunities for historically excluded communities to authentically engage and participate in public land and conservation management decision making processes.
  - Projects that uplift/center traditional ecological knowledge, history, and culture in relation to land and water conservation.
  - Projects that focus on groups working in collaboration with others to protect land or water.
  - Projects where the resources (e.g., staff, revenue) and strategy align well with the intended goals and outcomes.
  
- **Timing:** Applications will be reviewed promptly after the deadline. In October 2023, we will invite up to 20 groups to answer additional questions. Grants will be awarded by the end of 2023 and will be in effect from January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2025.



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## Application Details

There are 26 questions in this application.

- Questions 1-4: The first 4 questions help determine eligibility and should be completed first.
- Questions 5-12: Basic organization information We estimate these 8 questions will take applicants 10 minutes or less to complete.
- Questions 13-21: Project-specific questions, with 8 that have character count limits.
- Question 22: Information on the grant budget.
- Questions 23-26: Optional questions.
- Please limit your answers to the specified word counts. We recommend using a separate document to compile your answers before filling out the application.

If you would like a PDF of the application, or if you have other questions, please visit [conservationalliance.com/confluence](https://conservationalliance.com/confluence) or email [confluence@conservationalliance.com](mailto:confluence@conservationalliance.com).

Thank you for your interest in the Confluence Program.

## Eligibility Criteria

\* 1. Is the primary focus of your project one or more of the following?

- Research and/or white papers
- Outdoor youth and adult leadership education
- Conference, event, festival, or panel (including both in-person and virtual)
- An expedition
- An individual
- A fundraiser, one-time event, or gala
- General marketing or awareness-raising projects
- Project focused solely on creating a book, video, or movie
- Maintenance or management of areas currently designated as protected by a local, state, or national agency, including general stewardship projects, trail maintenance, conservation corps projects, etc
- Recruitment costs to fill open positions
- 501c4 work and lobbying

Yes

No

\* 2. Does your group self-identify as being led\* by historically racially excluded people? (Asian, Black, Brown, Hispanic, Indigenous, Latin American, and additional communities who identify as People of Color), or work with mixed status immigrant families? *Please note: The Conservation Alliance considers "leadership" in this case as those with decision-making power on behalf of the entirety of the organization or effort.*

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details, such as the approximate percentage of C-suite staff, leadership staff, and/or board members that identify as historically racially excluded.

\* 3. Which of these states, provinces or unincorporated territories is your project located in?

▼

If your project is located in multiple locations, please enter them below or describe the area where your project is located.

\* 4. Total annual operating budget amounts for the last five years (or as many years as your organization has been operating). This does not include federal or state pass-through funds. *Please note: Organizations/groups must have had a general operating budget less than \$500,000 in three of the last five years to qualify. This does not include federal or state pass-through funds.*

2023	
2022	
2021	
2020	
2019	



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### Contact and Basic Organization Information:

\* 5. Name of individual completing this application

**First Name**

**Last name**

\* 6. Email address

\* 7. Phone number

\* 8. Name of the group or organization seeking funding

\* 9. Mailing address for organization/group

\* 10. Please share a brief description of your group, for example: purpose, vision, mission statement, size, location, and/or history. (700 character max)

11. Organization/group's website and/or primary social media feed.

\* 12. How long has your group been working together?

- Less than one year and we do not have a formal partnership document.
- Less than one year and we have a formal partnership document (such as a memorandum of understanding) that we can share upon request.
- Between one and five years
- Five years or more

**Project-Specific Questions**

\* 13. Name of the project

\* 14. Tell us more about your team working on this project (e.g., field staff, administrative personnel, volunteers, interns). (700 character max)

\* 15. In one sentence, please tell us what project success looks like. (300 character max)

\* 16. Please tell us about the land and/or water your group is working to protect, conserve, or restore, your plan to protect/conservate/restore it, and how it will help foster a planet where natural places, wildlife, and people thrive together. (3,500 character max)

\* 17. How are impacted communities driving solutions for your project? (1,500 character max)

\* 18. Does your project or group fit one or more of these descriptions? (please check all that apply):

- Our project includes an intersectional approach to conservation that addresses the social, cultural, and environmental needs of a community.
- Our project focuses on a geography that supports climate resilience and biodiversity.
- Our project improves access to close-to-home recreation or healthy outdoor spaces, particularly those that are accessible by public transportation.
- Our project increases opportunities for historically excluded communities to authentically engage and participate in public land and conservation management decision making processes.
- Our project uplifts/centers traditional ecological knowledge, history, and culture in relation to land and water conservation.
- Our group is working in collaboration with others to protect land or water.
- None of the above

If you answered yes to any of the above, please explain. (3,500 character max)

\* 19. Please list 2-4 intended outcomes for this project over the next two years. (1,500 character max)

\* 20. Please detail examples of your organization/group's success as related to this application, including experience with the proposed project. (2,000 character max)

\* 21. Please list your top five key partners and how they have helped advance your work on this project. (1,500 character max)

**Grant Budget**

\* 22. What are the three primary ways you plan to use Conservation Alliance Funding in 2022?

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Second	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 180px;"></div>
Third	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 180px;"></div>



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### Optional

23. Are there any other relevant materials you would like to share with us that would be helpful for this our review process (e.g., partnership letter, letter of support, link to a video, article, or presentation)?

Please include website or file links in a document and upload this item.

Choose File

Choose File

No file chosen

24. The funding needed for land and water conservation projects far exceeds the Confluence Program grant budget. We are going to encourage other funders to support groups who apply for funding through this program. Do we have permission to share your contact information and application details with other funders?

Yes

No

25. Would you like to be connected to other Confluence Program applicants from this cycle?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide the best name and contact information and we will share this after the application closes.

26. Where/how did you hear about the Confluence Program and this funding opportunity?





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## Glossary of Terms

- **Biodiversity:** variety of animals, plants, and other living organisms that exist within a given landscape or natural area.
- **Climate resilience:** the ability of a landscape or natural area to recover from and adapt to the impacts of hazardous events and changes related to climate.
- **Conservation:** the preservation and protection of natural resources and landscapes to prevent destruction or degradation.
- **Ecosystem recovery:** bringing a natural area, including all of the living organisms in that space, back to a former, healthier state or condition.
- **Leadership / led by:** those with decision-making power on behalf of the entirety of the organization or effort.
- **Protection:** providing long-lasting, durable safeguards to conserve a landscape or natural area.
- **Rehabilitation/Restoration:** helping to bring something back to a former, healthier state or condition.
- **Rewilding:** Process of bringing a natural space back to a more wild version of itself, this may include the removal of man-made structures such as dams and culverts, reintroduction of native plants and organisms, or other means toward restoring or rehabilitating a natural space.