



9TH REGIONAL CALL FOR PROPOSALS: ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA, INSTRUCTIONS AND CHECKLIST

Please read these guidelines carefully before starting your application.

ELIGIBILITY

Please read and complete the eligibility check below to self-assess whether your organization/group qualifies to apply for a grant from ISDAO.

Is your group / organization community-based?	YES or NO
Is your group / organization working in any of ISDAO's focal countries in West Africa (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo)	YES or NO
Is your group / organization LGBTQI-led?	YES or NO
Does your proposal /project benefit LGBTQI persons?	YES or NO
Has your group / organization been in existence for at least 2 years?	YES or NO

If you have answered **YES** to all the above questions, you are eligible to apply.

If you answered **NO** to at least one of the above questions, you are not eligible to apply for an ISDAO sub-regional grant.

Groups and organizations that were approved for multi-year funding of 18–36 months under the 8th regional grant cycle are not eligible to apply under the 9th Regional Call for Proposals. They will be eligible to submit a new application in the next cycle.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Application: Please ensure all fields of the application form are completed, and all requested details are provided. Incomplete applications will not be considered, and we will not follow up on missing information.

Application form: Applications must be submitted using ISDAO's 2025 proposal form template. There are two application forms available on our website; please review them carefully and download the one that best suits your needs.



If you are applying for Core and project funding, please download the form for Core and Project funding.

If you are applying solely for core funding, please download the Core Funding application form.

Applications submitted using other forms or older ISDAO proposal form templates will not be considered.

Applicant details: All communication regarding applications will be conducted via email. Please ensure that your contact information, especially your email address, is accurate. Incorrect contact details may cause delays in our communication with you about your application.

References: Two reference letters must accompany your proposal. Any proposal submitted without these letters will be deemed incomplete and ineligible for review. To be considered valid, the letters must be specific to this grant request, dated, and signed.

Grant Making Process: We currently accept proposal applications submitted via email, along with the necessary supporting documents. Once an application is received, our team will verify that the group/organization and the application meet all submission requirements. Only fully completed and eligible proposals are considered for review. Proposals that meet all criteria are then submitted for decision-making

The final decisions on eligible proposals submitted during the open call are made through the review of the Activist Grant Making Panel (AGMP). If an application is approved for funding by the AGMP, the ISDAO team will notify the group or organization and initiate the required steps for due diligence, grant agreements, and disbursing funds.

Please note that this process can take up to five months from the date of submission of your application. We will keep you informed of the progress of your application once it has been finalized.

To submit your proposal, please complete the application form and email the documents to proposals@isdao.org no later than 31 October 2026 at 11:59 PM GMT. Please ensure to submit your proposal form, budget, and any supporting documents you wish to include in one email.

NOTE: ISDAO makes grants to both unregistered groups/organizations and registered groups/organizations. Your registration status is not a requirement for funding from ISDAO.

FUNDING TIERS

TIER 1: Up to 5,000 USD (per year) – This funding is designed to provide foundational seed support for informal groups or organizations working at the grassroots level that have existed for at least 2 years and can demonstrate work implemented during that time. These organizations may lack formal systems or structures and are likely to be volunteer led. The annual budget of any group or organization applying for this grant must not exceed 85,000 USD. Under this funding level, applicants can apply for up to:

- **\$5,000** for a minimum of 6 months and a maximum of 12 months
- **\$10,000** for a minimum of 18 months and a maximum of 24 months
- **\$15,000** for a minimum of 30 months and a maximum of 36 months

TIER 2: Up to 20,000 USD (per year) – This funding is designed to sustain existing work or support new initiatives by more formalized groups that have been active for at least four (4) years, working at local, sub-national, or national levels. These organizations should have basic systems and structures in place, particularly financial systems, and be consistently staffed by either paid employees (part-time or full-time) or volunteers. Under this funding level, applicants can apply for up to:

- **\$20,000** for a minimum of 6 months and a maximum of 12 months
- **\$40,000** for a minimum of 18 months and a maximum of 24 months
- **\$60,000** for a minimum of 30 months and a maximum of 36 months

TIER 3: Up to 30,000 USD (per year) – This funding is intended to support the consolidation or development of work by formal groups operating at sub-national, national, or regional levels, with at least 6 years of experience, functional organizational systems and structures, and full-time staff. Under this funding level, applicants can apply for up to:

- **\$30,000** for a minimum of 6 months and a maximum of 12 months
- **\$60,000** for a minimum of 18 months and a maximum of 24 months
- **\$90,000** for a minimum of 30 months and a maximum of 36 months

FUNDING TYPES

Core and Project Funding

ISDAO provides flexible funding and aims to respond to the priorities identified within the movement, including core support. Groups and organizations can apply for core and project support funding and will indicate this on their application form. This funding can be used for project implementation and for organizational operational costs. Use our ***Core Funding and Project Funding Application Form***.

Core Funding Only

ISDAO provides funding that aims to strengthen organizational structures and systems of community-led groups. Groups and organizations can apply for core funding only and will indicate this on their application form. This funding is specifically for organizations that are already doing work connected to



the focus and goals of the initiatives on this call and require funding to strengthen their overall organization and advance their work. Use our ***Core Funding Only Application Form***.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS CHECKLIST

For all applicants:

- ☐ Any governing texts for your group or organization, including your vision and mission.
- ☐ Detailed grant budget using our provided template
- ☐ Most recent annual report [if available]
- ☐ Organogram of your group/ organization [if available]
- ☐ Current strategic plan [if available]
- ☐ Administration/Human Resources Manual/Policy [if available]

For applicants requesting to receive funds directly, and not through a fiscal host:

- ☐ Grant applicant's registration certificate [if available]
- ☐ Most recent audit report [if available]
- ☐ Finance and Procurement Manual / Policy [if available]

For fiscally hosted applicants who will receive their funding through another organization:

- ☐ A Fiscal Hosting Agreement between your group/organization and your fiscal host should be included if available at the time of your application submission. If not available, please note that this document will be required if your proposal is approved for funding.
- ☐ Fiscal Host's registration certificate
- ☐ Fiscal Host's most recent audit report [if available]
- ☐ Fiscal Host's Finance and Procurement Manual / Policy [if available]

Please note that all the information you share in your application will be kept secure and confidential. Applications and information provided during the application process are not shared with parties outside of ISDAO. This information is only accessible to ISDAO's staff, ISDAO's fiscal host, translators, Activist Grant-making Panel Members, and members of our Governance Board.

If you have any questions or concerned about confidentiality or the security of information provided, please contact ISDAO at info@isdao.org

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We wish you the best of luck with your application!