



PROTEUS
FUND

Fiscal Sponsorship

Everything You Need to Know

With nearly 30 years of experience in social justice philanthropy, we understand what makes social justice initiatives grow and thrive. Through fiscal sponsorship, Proteus Fund partners with emerging initiatives and innovative movement leaders, enabling them to focus on increasing their impact with the support of a trusted operational partner.

What is fiscal sponsorship at Proteus Fund?

Proteus Fund offers comprehensive fiscal sponsorship (Model A). Proteus Fund offers critical expertise to our fiscally sponsored projects through various strategies and tools. Our specialized approach to fiscal sponsorship centers partnership while providing administrative, organizational, and governance infrastructure. With Fiscal Sponsorship at Proteus Fund, you can receive operational expertise for the following:

- Financial Management
- Risk Management & Compliance
- Grants Management
- Human Resources
- Donor Services
- Contract & Vendor Management
- Payroll
- Advocacy & Lobbying

How do I know if fiscal sponsorship at Proteus Fund is right for my Project?

Mission: We view fiscal sponsorship as an essential strategy to advance our mission. Supporting the work of unincorporated initiatives is a critical element of creating and sustaining robust social justice movements to accelerate our collective impact and important wins for racial, gender, queer, and disability justice and inclusive democracy.

Customized Support: We provide tailored, holistic, and comprehensive support for fiscally sponsored Projects that engage in community and grassroots organizing.

Grantmaking Expertise: We specialize in providing grants management support that helps grantmaking projects respond rapidly to the changing dynamics of their movements.

Lobbying and Advocacy Knowledge: We offer the infrastructure and expertise to help our fiscally sponsored partners navigate the intricacies of lobbying and advocacy necessary to influence impactful policy change. Our 501(c)(4) affiliate, Proteus Action League, offers a robust lobbying vehicle to support legislative impact.

How do I know if my Project is eligible to be fiscally sponsored by Proteus Fund?	Projects are eligible if: • U.S. based and focused on U.S. based work. • Program Activities advance the charitable mission of Proteus Fund. • Project focus is on one or more program areas: Racial Justice, Gender Justice, Queer Justice, Disability Inclusion/Justice, Inclusive Democracy. • Preference for projects that also focus on one or more of the following strategies: Evolving Philanthropic Practices, Narrative Movement Building, and or Strategic Communications. • Project has a minimum annual operating budget of \$500K or more of committed or pledged funds. • Project desires model A, comprehensive fiscal sponsorship (Proteus Fund only practices model A).
What would make my Project ineligible for fiscal sponsorship?	Projects are not eligible if: • Internationally based • Project program areas are outside of Proteus Fund's scope • Project budget is below \$500K
How can my Project become fiscally sponsored by Proteus Fund?	• Review the eligibility criteria above for partnership fit. • If eligible, complete the intake form (include your budget, program activities, and whether you intend to engage in lobbying). • Wait for approval while Proteus Fund assesses fit for fiscal sponsorship. (You'll be notified via email within several weeks or months during busier seasons). • Onboard and receive orientation. • Continue fundraising and running day-to-day programming
What is the process for applying for fiscal sponsorship? <i>*We receive intake forms on a rolling basis, with no submission deadline. Most applications will receive a response within 10 business days. During busier months, the response time may take longer. We appreciate your patience during that time.</i>	• After completing the intake form, if projects meet the eligibility criteria and are a partnership fit, prospective Projects receive an email notification inviting them to a discovery call with the Director of Fiscal Sponsorship. This is followed by a follow-up call with the Chief Operating Officer if both Proteus and the project are interested in advancing the process.* • Project Semifinalists receive an email notification for an invitation to complete a due diligence form with more detailed information about the project for review by operations teams and leadership. • The Director of Fiscal Sponsorship recommends the Project Finalists to the Board of Directors. All Projects need additional review by our Board of Directors before they decide. • The due diligence approval process typically takes 8 weeks.

If my Project is not selected for fiscal sponsorship, what happens next?

Proteus Fund staff and board members help us select Projects each year. We base our selection on a due diligence process that includes:

- Intake Forms
- Exploratory conversations.
- Review of project documentation.
- Leadership competencies.
- Project Activities.

Our selection process requires some time. We try to simplify the process by not asking for items we don't need. This includes:

- The Director of Fiscal Sponsorship and Chief Operating Officer review all intake forms.
- Projects selected for consideration are invited to speak with the Director of Fiscal Sponsorship and Chief Operating Officer. Due diligence is conducted at this stage. If we discover information that may conflict with our partnership during due diligence, we will reach out to understand the situation.
- Project recommendations are reviewed and approved by the Board of Proteus Fund.
- Projects onboard to meet with the Operations teams.
- Projects are publicly announced.

If my Project is not selected for fiscal sponsorship, what other options do I have?

If your Project is not a good fit for us at Proteus Fund, a wealth of resources and fiscal sponsors can support your work.

Other Fiscal Sponsors (see [Fiscal Sponsorship Directory](#))

[Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors](#)

[Tides Center](#)

[Amalgamated Charitable Foundation](#)

[Fractured Atlas](#)

[Social Good Fund](#)

[NEO Philanthropy](#)

[New Venture Fund](#)

[Community Partners](#)

[Allied Media Projects](#)

[Community Initiatives](#)

[Peace Development Fund](#)

[Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs](#)

Online Resource

[Social Impact Commons](#) is building the first national network and community of practice, advancing management commons as a model of equitable and inclusive resource sharing for the nonprofit sector--a next-generation approach to fiscal sponsorship.

Community & Network

[The Network of Fiscal Sponsors \(NNFS\)](#) is a professional network of organizations and individuals working in fiscal sponsorship. It includes a member directory of fiscal sponsors.