



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Finance Consultant

Bid Issued: March 29, 2021

Proposals Due: April 16, 2021

Background

The [Hive Fund for Climate and Gender Justice](#) raises funds and makes grants to non-profit organizations. With funding from [more than a dozen donors](#) and collaborative partnerships with a [broad array of advisors](#), we identify and support groups that have historically lacked access to funding and are addressing intersecting climate, gender, and racial justice crises in the U.S. Grantee partners are advocating for strong policies, building social movements to intensify public demand for change, conducting civic engagement to build political power and hold decision-makers accountable, and engaging in creative communications efforts to move hearts, minds, and imaginations. At least 70 percent of Hive funding is allocated to groups in the US South, where pollution levels are higher and philanthropic funding levels are lower than elsewhere in the country. Achieving climate justice in the South will provide not only local health and economic benefits, but also national and global climate momentum as the US re-engages in federal and international venues.

In 2020, the Hive Fund awarded more than \$7 million in multi-year, general support grants to [28 grantee partners](#) based predominately in Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, and Texas. Nearly 90% of these organizations are led by Black, Brown, and Indigenous women. From stopping global liquefied natural gas and petrochemical projects and massive freeway expansions to helping our multi-racial democracy deliver on its promise, these organizations are winning immediate benefits and building momentum for future action.

As the Hive Fund prepares to double our annual grant-making in 2021, we are seeking a consultant to help us explore the role the Hive Fund might play in the climate justice finance space. The consultant will help us determine if the Hive Fund should build a focused grant-making program supporting transformative climate finance that centers racial and gender equity, and if so, what the parameters and approach should be and what staffing and resources are needed. A resulting in-house grants program or spin-off re-granting entity may support field-building, policy advocacy, and/or place-based integrated capital projects, among other approaches. We envision a full climate justice finance grant-making program beginning in 2022.

Hive Fund Co-Directors will work closely with the consultant and provide grounding in Hive Fund values and approaches, consistent thought-partnership, regular check-ins, and introductions to key stakeholders.

Consultant Responsibilities:

Context-Setting

- Spend some time learning about the Hive Fund values and goals (including transcending current inequitable and extractive economic systems) and existing Hive Fund partnerships and connections in the climate justice finance space.

Research and Recommendations for Possible Hive Fund Climate Justice Finance Program

- Connect with key Hive Fund grantee partners and stakeholders, especially in North Carolina and Texas, to identify climate justice finance opportunities that will help advance climate, gender and racial justice goals.
- Present ideas to Co-Directors for new lexicon and narrative frames about what this kind of finance is all about. What does “climate justice finance” entail?
- Identify gaps in the philanthropic landscape to support climate justice finance at the national, regional, state, and local levels within the United States. How should the Hive Fund narrow into an area of focus for this work?
- Develop recommendations on focus, approach, and structure for a possible future climate justice finance grant-making program, taking into account existing mechanisms and infrastructure in climate finance and possibly creating new entities if needed. Assume the program would make grants of at least \$1 million per year, and up to \$10 million a year.

Recommend one or two exploratory grants in 2021

- Make recommendations to Hive Fund staff and working group for one or two 2021 climate justice finance grant ideas (We have \$1M committed for 2021 grant(s).)

Sharing Insights

- Develop memo and webinar content for a short learning series for Hive Fund funders, grantee partners, and allies.

Skills/Qualities Required:

- Significant experience in finance (can be in any capacity – financial institution, policy institution, academic, etc.) We’re seeking a finance “generalist” who will help analyze the climate finance landscape in order to help Hive Fund find an area of focus. The consultant will have a national perspective, while paying special attention to opportunities in the US South.
- Grounding in climate justice, social justice, racial justice and/or gender equity movements
- Knowledge of the US South
- Knowledge of how for-profit and non-profit organizations function
- Understanding of how philanthropic grant-making dollars can be applied to leverage public and private finance
- Bridge builder, people-person

What is most important to us in a consultant

The consultant or consulting team will work with the Hive Fund Co-Directors (and other staff as needed). The Co-Directors have a lot of climate expertise and much less finance expertise. We are very interested in finding a consultant who brings a collaborative spirit, tenacity and grace, love and rigor, and ability to roll with uncertainty. This person must be comfortable engaging climate finance professionals as well as community leaders seeking to advance grassroots visions for an equitable future. While this emerging area of work will be a priority for the fund, Co-Directors are also

managing other organizational work. We will need to rely on and absolutely trust this consultant to manage the details, keep the process moving forward, and keep us engaged in the right ways while representing the Hive Fund values and mission externally.

Proposal Submission

All proposals should be submitted to info@hivefund.org with the email subject Climate Finance RFP by Friday, April 16, 2021 at 5:00 PM PT.

Proposals Should Include:

- Time estimate (how many hours a week spent, on average)
- Availability and start date
- Overall Budget
- Primary Consultant and/or Project Team's resumes
- Narrative describing your approach
- 2 references
- Cover letter outlining interest and fit for the project