

# EMO Fund Letter of Intent 2025: Innovation & Imagination

## About this Grant Opportunity

Bold, forward-thinking projects that test, refine, or scale ideas to advance and reimagine economic mobility and opportunity. This opportunity is for research and data efforts that are novel or unconventional and grounded in our research principles. We are looking for work that pushes beyond traditional metrics and methods, sparks imagination and inspires new possibilities, and generates knowledge or data that can expand economic mobility and opportunity.

## Principles We Care About

- An intersectional approach that reflects the lived experience of individuals across multiple identifies and systems.
- Honor Distinct Worldviews in Research and Evaluation. Indigenous and Western approaches to research are rooted in fundamentally different worldviews - one relational and cyclical, the other linear and human-centered. Valuing both requires acknowledging diverse ways of knowing, being, and defining expertise, while also reflecting on one's positionality and committing to move at the speed of trust in partnership with communities.
- Demonstrated partnership with communities, especially those who are and have been historically marginalized.
- Expansive understanding of economic mobility - beyond financial outcomes - and includes the essential conditions of safety, dignity, belonging, agency, etc.
- Innovative uses of qualitative data (e.g. ethnography, storytelling & oral history, and community designed research) in partnership with communities to tell a richer and more holistic story.

## Eligibility

To be eligible for funding, applicants must meet **all** the following criteria:

- **Nonprofit Status:** Be a U.S. based public charity with a valid tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or have a fiscal sponsor with such status at the time of the application. Organizations must be in compliance with 501(c)(3) requirements.
- **Organizational Budget:** Have an annual operating budget of **less** that \$2 million.
- **Mission Alignment:** Conduct work that addresses critical gaps in knowledge and data infrastructure related to economic mobility and opportunity.
- **Location:** Organization must be located in and conducting work within the 50 U.S. States and/or District of Columbia.

## Key Dates and Deadlines

- RFI Opens: October 6, 2025
- RFI Deadline: October 31, 2025 at 11:59 pm EST
- Request for Proposals Opens: December 2025
- RFP Deadline: January 2026
- Grant Start Date: April - May 2026

Applications submitted after the due date will not be reviewed.  
 All applicants will be notified by email.  
 Applicants may be asked for additional clarification during the review period.

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