

EMO Fund Letter of Intent 2025: Innovation & Imagination

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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 identities 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** than \$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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Key Terms & Eligibility Criteria

Understanding Key Terms in This Form

Grantee Organization: The entity that applies for funding, holds tax-exempt status, has its own bank account, and assumes fiduciary and legal responsibility for the grant. The Grantee Organization will sign the Grant Agreement Letter and be accountable for compliance and reporting.

Fiscally Sponsored Project/Program: A project, program, or organization that operates under the umbrella of a Fiscal Sponsor rather than having its own tax-exempt status. This may include initiatives housed within a larger entity such as a university.

Fiscal Sponsor: A tax-exempt organization that provides fiduciary oversight, financial management, and compliance support for a fiscally sponsored project or program. The Fiscal Sponsor is responsible for administering grant funds but does not directly manage the project's programmatic activities.

Relationship to This Application

For the purposes of this application, the **Fiscal Sponsor** will serve as the **Grantee Organization**. This means that the Fiscal Sponsor will apply for the grant, sign the Grant Agreement Letter, and be responsible for financial and compliance obligations, even if the funding is intended to support a specific project or program.

If you need more assistance filling out your LOI, please
contact: emogrants@neophilanthropy.org

Eligibility Review

This funding opportunity is for organizations who meet ALL following requirements:

- The organization's work fills critical knowledge gaps in the understanding of ending poverty and supporting economic mobility
- The organization is a federally-recognized 501c3 nonprofit OR is a fiscally sponsored organizations (or those programs that are housed within 501c3 nonprofits)
- The organization's annual budget is under \$2 million.
- The organization is U.S. based.

Does your organization provide important knowledge and data to improve understanding of how to reduce poverty and support economic advancement? *

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Does your organization have an annual budget of under \$2 million? *

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Does your organization have its own 501c3 status? *

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

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Organization Details

Grantee Organization

If your organization has a Fiscal Sponsor or is housed within a larger organization (such as a university), put the sponsoring organization's information here as the organization who will hold the fiduciary relationship.

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Grantee Organization Name * | | |
| <input type="text"/> | | |
| Street * | | |
| <input type="text"/> | | |
| City * | State * | Zip Code * |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| | State Abbreviation | |
| Telephone * | Tax ID (EIN) * | Website |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |

Fiscally Sponsored Organization

If your organization has a Fiscal Sponsor or is housed within a larger entity (such as a university), put your organization's information here as the organization who will hold the programmatic relationship.

| | | |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| Program or Sponsored Organization Name | | |
| <input type="text"/> | | |
| Street | | |
| <input type="text"/> | | |
| City | State | Zip Code |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| | State Abbreviation | |
| Telephone | Website | |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | |

Primary Contact Information for the Grantee Application Process

(for fiscally-sponsored organizations, choose whether your program team or your fiscal sponsor will be the grant application contact).

| |
|----------------------|
| First Name * |
| <input type="text"/> |
| Last Name * |
| <input type="text"/> |
| Email Address * |
| <input type="text"/> |

Signatory Contact Information

(Executive who is legally authorized to sign for the grantee/fiscal sponsor)

| |
|----------------------|
| First Name * |
| <input type="text"/> |
| Last Name * |
| <input type="text"/> |
| Email Address * |
| <input type="text"/> |

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Our Values and Approach: What We Are Seeking in Strong Proposals

- An intersectional approach that reflects the lived experience of individuals across multiple identities 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.

What is your organization's mission and what is the future you are working toward? *For video application submissions, please type "video" in the textbox.* *

Briefly describe what your organization does, how your work leads to impact, and how you define success. *For video application submissions, please type "video" in the textbox.* *

How does your research approach incorporate or address the research principles outlined in the RFP (listed above)? *For video application submissions, please type "video" in the textbox.* *

Innovation & Imagination Question: How would a grant from this fund enable you to test, scale, or refine bold or imaginative ideas aimed at advancing economic mobility and opportunity? *For video application submissions, please type "video" in the textbox.* *

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Video Applications

You are invited to submit a video file as your application instead of the typed application. Your video must be in THIS FORMAT and THIS FILE SIZE and be LESS THAN 10 minutes long. Your video must answer all the questions in the application, including:

- Please provide the mission of your organization. What is the future you are working toward?
- Briefly describe what your organization does, how your work leads to change, and how you measure success.
- How does your work reflect at least one of the research principles outlined in the RFP and listed in the Values & Approach section?
- Innovation & Imagination Question: How would a grant from this fund enable you to test, scale, or refine bold or imaginative ideas aimed at advancing economic mobility and opportunity?

Please paste your video's URL link from a third-part host (service such as YouTube, Vimeo, Dubb, or Vidyard) or from your own website here.

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Eligibility Confirmation: Federal Tax-Exempt Verification

The EMO Fund requires grant applicants to submit the below supplemental attachment(s).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at emogrants@neophilanthropy.org.

Grantee's 501c3 IRS Determination Letter or Fiscal Sponsor's IRS Determination Letter

No file chosen

Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement, if applicable

No file chosen

Organization budget, or if fiscally sponsored, the project/program budget.

No file chosen

Other: You are invited but not required to share existing materials demonstrating your record of success.

No file chosen



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