



2025 Call for Applications Application Questions

Please also note that this document is not editable. We are unable to grant edit access to this document.

You must submit your application online via the Doc Society applications portal [here](#). We do not accept emailed applications

Assess Your Project's Fit with the Fund

We'd love for you to take just one minute to complete a brief self-assessment questionnaire. This simple step will help you determine if your project aligns with the Fund's guidelines.

Last year, we were deeply inspired by over 600 applications, but we were only able to support seven projects. We know how much effort, care, and time goes into writing an application, and we understand how challenging and stressful the process can be. Our goal is to make sure your application meets the minimum requirements so you have the best chance of being considered as a candidate for the Climate Story Fund.

Thank you for the important work you do—we truly value your contribution to climate storytelling!

1: Does your story explore climate themes? By "climate themes," we mean the intersectional nature of climate, encompassing issues like racial equity, Indigenous knowledge, migration, agriculture, housing, technology, land, environmental justice and conservation.

2: Is your project independent? By independent project we understand an original work created by a storyteller who owns the copyright and has full control over artistic, budget, and editorial decisions.

3: Will you be able to complete the project and launch and/or implement the impact pilot within 12 months of receiving the grant, that is, by June 2026?

4: Are there at least two key team members—one from the production team and one from the impact team—committed to attending the required virtual Impact Lab during September 8, 9, 17 and 18, 2025? If your project is selected, are these team members available on the lab dates?

5: Do you currently have at least one funder who is actively supporting your project financially?

If you can confidently answer "yes" to ALL these questions, we encourage you to apply! If not, we recommend waiting and applying during our next call for applications.

DECLARATIONS

1: My story incorporates climate themes.

2: CSF prioritizes projects in late production/that will be completed within a year from being awarded the grant. Check to indicate you understand that priority.

3: I understand that I must submit a sample of work as part of the application to be eligible for the fund.

4: If my project is selected, at least two key members of the team (including Director, Producer and/or Impact Producer, if already engaged) listed will attend the virtual Impact Lab (8, 9, 17, 18 September 2025).

5: I understand that if selected for the final stage, I must submit extended sequences or a rough cut (if ready), by June 20, 2025.

6: I agree for my project to be viewed by external parties enlisted by Doc Society during the selection process. (Doc Society often enlists external reviewers who have experience in the field of using media for social impact.)

7: How did you first hear about the Climate Story fund?

From a fellow storyteller or creative

From a funder

From an organisation

At a festival or film / creative event

Doc Society's newsletter

Social media

Some other way

AT A GLANCE

1: What is the form of your project?

Feature length

Short form

Episodic

Podcast

Radio Documentary

Cross-platform

Animation

Other

If you selected 'other' above, please explain.

2: What is the genre of your project?

Non-fiction
Fiction
Hybrid
Other

If you selected 'other' above please explain.

3: What stage have you reached with your project? Please select as many as appropriate.

I'm in development

I'm in production

I'm in late production

I'm at the rough cut stage

My project is completed

My project has premiered / launched

My project has secured a distribution or public broadcasting deal

My project has begun impact activities

4: Where in the world does your story primarily take place?

5: What is your total budget (in USD)?

6: What is the amount requested from the Climate Story Fund?

ABOUT YOUR PROJECT

1: Logline (up to 50 words)

Please provide a 2-3 sentence summary of the project that captures the most important elements — setting, participants*, key issues, and form.

**Participants is used throughout this document, but depending on the specifics of your project you may want to refer to your participants as characters/contributors/subjects/protagonists etc.*

2: Topic Summary (250 - 750 words)

Explain the topic, theme, context, stakes, relevance, or questions that you're exploring in your project.

3: Project Film Summary (250 - 750 words)

Give an overview introducing the main participants and plot points in the project. If your project is non-narrative or not character-driven, what is your concept, and how is it constructed? Please be clear about the elements of your story that remain unknown or unclear and highlight the questions that may steer its direction.

4: Artistic Approach (250 - 750 words)

Describe your artistic vision for your project. What are the formal elements of the project, including any artistic devices, visual and audio elements? Does this project fit within or reference any specific medium or narrative traditions?

5: Storyteller/Artist/Filmmaker(s) Statement(s) (125 - 250 words per statement)

to be completed by Director(s) and/or Producer(s)

Explain who you are as a storyteller/artist/filmmaker, and if applicable, how this

project is expanding or evolving your creative practice. What does success look like for you as an artist? What are the creative, professional, or holistic barriers and challenges you are facing?

6: Connection and Point of View (125 - 250 words)

What is your connection to the story (i.e., to the participants, themes, community, location, archives, etc.)? How do your interests, motivations, and/or worldview shape your approach to this story? What lens, perspective, insights, or bias do you bring to the story?

7: Accountability and Community Care (125 - 250 words)

Describe your ethical considerations and practices of accountability in your creative process. This can include a description of your guiding values, processes of establishing and maintaining ongoing consent, providing transparency about your creative processes, collecting feedback etc. For example: How do you reflect on and address the potential consequences of your storytelling choices on participants, audiences, your crew, and/or other stakeholders? What activities or strategies do you use to implement your values as they relate to care for yourself and others? [*For further guidance, reference DAWG's Framework for Values Ethics and Accountability in Nonfiction Filmmaking*](#)

8: Safety and Security (50-100 words)

If relevant, please reflect on any known safety and security concerns throughout the lifecycle of your project — from development through distribution. How will you mitigate risks (digital, physical, legal, etc.) to your participants and crew? *For further guidance, reference the [Safe and Secure Handbook](#).*

9: Accessibility (50 - 100 words)

If applicable, how do you intend to make your project and/or production accessible to D/deaf, blind/low vision, disabled, and neurodiverse crew, participants, and audiences? *Please ensure that these accessibility costs (captions, audio descriptions, transcripts) are reflected in the submitted budget. For further guidance, reference the [FWD-Doc Toolkit](#) and the [FWD-Doc Engagement Pack](#).*

10: Creative Control (up to 50 words)

In one or two sentences please describe who has creative control and legal ownership of the project.

11: Project Stage and Timeline (50-100 words)

In list form, outline the projected production timeline from the development of the project to the anticipated completion date. Please include major project activities, production schedules, and anticipated post-production and release dates.

12: Current Sample/Rough Cut (50 - 100 words)

What should reviewers be looking for in your sample? Explain what is present and absent in the sample, and how it will differ as a finished project. Describe how it is representative of the intended story, style, subject, or other aspect of the project. We encourage applicants not to spend extra resources creating a sample for each individual fund. If your current sample is outside of the suggested length requirements, please provide reviewers with the time codes of the portion of the sample that best reflects your intended style and approach (e.g., 3:15-12:15).

Production applicants are encouraged to submit a sample of up to 10 minutes. The sample should demonstrate your access to characters, visual/sonic treatment, and the developing tone and style. We encourage applicants to submit a complete scene that provides the viewer insight into the team's ability to communicate their intention.

Post-production applications require a sample of up to 10 minutes that demonstrates access to characters, story arc or concept, and visual/sonic treatment. If available, a rough cut may be submitted.

13: Link to current sample (up to 10 min):

Links and passwords should be valid for at least six months from the date of your submission.

14: Link to trailer or teaser (if available):

Links and passwords should be valid for at least six months from the date of your submission.

OUTREACH / IMPACT

1: Audience Consideration (50 - 100 words)

Describe the audiences you would like your project to reach and why. How do you plan to reach and engage them?

2: Intended Impact (125 - 250 words)

Describe your vision for the influence the project will have. If relevant, what are the impact goals and strategies for your project? *For further guidance, reference [The Impact Field Guide](#).*

3: Distribution and Marketing (up to 500 words)

Describe the intended distribution of your project. Specify any plans for festival, theatrical, and/or community screenings, as well as your plans for securing broadcast and/or distribution. How do you envision the relationship between the finished project and the participants and/or community being represented/documented, if relevant? Who will benefit from the project's release and how?

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

1: Fundraising Strategy (50 - 100 words)

Describe the overall fundraising strategy and who from the team will lead these efforts for the project.

2: Grant Impact (50 - 100 words)

Should you receive a grant, describe how any granted funds would be spent and how the funds would help you move forward with your project.

3: Funding Detail (50 - 100 words)

List all sources of funding and amounts. Include types of funding (i.e. government, foundations, pre-sales, private sources, other) and status (to apply, applied, and confirmed).

Funding Source	Amount	Status
ex. Lovely Film Club [Foundation]	\$20,000	to apply

4: Comprehensive Line-Item Expense Budget

Please provide a budget, from development through release, in U.S. dollars, including a budget total. Please ensure that any accessibility, safety, and duty of care

costs mentioned in your above responses are reflected in the submitted budget. For further guidance, reference [A \(Revised!\) Introduction to Documentary Budgeting](#).

*If you are applying for impact funding, please specify.

ABOUT YOU AND YOUR TEAM

1: Key Creative Personnel (50 - 100 words per bio)

Provide brief biographies for each key creative team member. Include information about relevant expertise and the individual's role in the project.

2: In which country do they live (primarily reside)?

3: In which city/town do they currently live?

4: Nationality

5: Artistic career stage

Early - under 5 years or 1st project

Mid - 5-10 years or 2nd project

Seasoned - 10 years + more than 2 projects

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

Please complete the following questions about key creative team members: director(s), key creative producer(s), writer (if applicable). Please specify which role the person has on your project. While this section is optional, collecting demographic data enables us to see who we are reaching so we can better respond to the needs of the global creative community. This information will be used for the purposes of building equity and inclusion in our programs and will not be used in our decision making process.

1: I identify as (check all that apply)

Agender

Cisgender

Female

Gender non-conforming

Genderqueer

Intersex

Male

Non-binary

Third gender

Transgender

Two Spirit

I prefer to self identify

Prefer not to answer

2: How would you define your sexual orientation?

Bisexual

Gay or Lesbian

Heterosexual

Prefer to self identify

Prefer not to answer

3: What is your race and/or ethnic origin? (check all that apply)

African American or of African Descent

Arab

Asian

Biracial, Multiracial, or Mestizo/a

Hispanic or Latina/Latino/Latinx

Jewish

Middle Eastern

Native American, First Nations, or Indigenous

Pacific Islander, Native Hawaiian

White or Caucasian

Prefer to self identify

Prefer not to answer

4: Do you consider yourself to have a disability, impairment, learning difference or long term condition?

Yes

If yes, would you like to expand?

No

Prefer not to answer