

# MEF Proposal Template

The Mina Ecosystem Funding (MEF) process is the primary mechanism for proposing funding requests for Mina Ecosystem projects, initiatives, and operations to support positive change and growth of the Mina Protocol. This MEF Proposal Template provides a guide to help community members submit well-structured, concise, yet informative MEF proposals.

## Abstract

A multi-sentence (short paragraph) that provides a high-level summary of the proposal that is very terse and human-readable. Someone should be able to read only the abstract to get a clear gist of what this proposal involves, its purpose, and the expected effects of implementing it.

The Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) is the leading non-profit organisation defending civil liberties for all in the digital world, including for free speech online and against illegal surveillance. EFF has fought fiercely and independently to support open source software, encryption and security research. EFF draws on the expertise of leading technologists, activists and attorneys to advise policymakers and educate the press and the public.

<https://www.eff.org/>

## Recommendation Summary

In this section, the author should summarize the feedback received during the Deliberation Phase on the related Mina Research Topic.

It can also be given on the Mina Research Forum as a reply message to the proposal.

## Decision

A multi-sentence (short paragraph) to state if the proposal should be approved (and funded) or rejected (and not funded), positive or negative, and provide a high-level explanation of the reasoning for this decision.

## Risks

A list of the risks identified by community members and reviewers that the proposal could present to the Mina Ecosystem, As well as their recommendations for how to manage them

## Benefits

A list of benefits identified by community members and reviewers that the proposal (if approved) could provide to the Mina Ecosystem and why it's important to consider them.

## Motivation

A multi-sentence (short paragraph) that explains the motivation for the proposal. It should describe the "why" of this proposal. What problem does it solve? Why should someone vote for it to be funded? What value does it provide to the Mina Ecosystem? What use cases does this proposal address?

*What problem does it solve?*

Cryptography and rights to encryption remain under threat.

EFF led the fight during the first Crypto Wars in the 1990s to ensure that commerce and society could benefit from strong, uncompromised encryption.

Whereas this safeguarded the dissemination of encryption software, the second Crypto War in the 2010s targeted companies using encryption in their consumer products, such as the FBI's attempts in 2015 to force Apple to create software to weaken the iPhone's encryption to aid law enforcement.

A third Crypto War 3.0 is now underway since regulators have been attacking the use of Zero Knowledge Proofs in cryptocurrencies, such as the crackdown on Tornado Cash (and Alexey Pertsev, a publisher of Tornado Cash's open-source code, remains imprisoned without bail in the Netherlands). Plans remain to mandate the Department of the Treasury to implement regulations prohibiting financial institutions from transacting with cryptocurrency mixers, privacy coins, and other anonymity enhancing technologies.

*Why should someone vote for it to be funded?*

Mina is at the cutting edge of these technologies and so it's crucial that Mina can be part of the EFF community so that it can share its expertise and contribute to these debates. Regulators must have access to the best available evidence.

*What value does it provide to the Mina Ecosystem?*

Privacy preserving technologies, such as Zero Knowledge Proofs, are Mina's DNA. It's at the heart of Mina's long term success that regulators, the press and public understand the public benefit of these technologies and the damage to the long term prosperity of the world's digital economy if they are banned or undermined.

# Rationale

For engineering/development proposals, a multi-sentence (short paragraph) that explains the proposed design approach and why particular design decisions were made. It should describe alternate designs that were considered and related work.

For other proposals, a multi-sentence (short paragraph) that provides relevant context and background to explain the delivery plan.

- EFF's website provides an easy and simple way to pay a one-off donation.

# Delivery Plan

A multi-sentence (short paragraph) that details the delivery plan divided into 1-2 week milestones and a detailed schedule.

For engineering/development proposals, architecture should explain in detail how the code will be split into pure functions and their relations. A Reference Implementation section could include a reference/example implementation that people can use to assist in understanding or implementing this specification.

For other proposals, architecture should provide a visualization (or diagram) of the proposed approach, how it'll be implemented/deployed, and maintained (if applicable).

- The proposal is a one off donation of \$100
- It's with noting that EFF accepts the following cryptocurrencies:
  - Algorand
  - Binance
  - Bitcoin
  - Cardano
  - Dash
  - Ethereum
  - Filecoin
  - Litecoin
  - Ripple
  - Solana
  - Tether
  - Zcash
  - Shielded Zcash
- Would it be in Mina's marketing interests to see if EFF would add Mina to this list?

# Security and Performance Considerations

A multi-sentence (short paragraph) that describes the security and/or performance implications/considerations relevant to the proposed project, initiative, or operation.

A list of possible risks across the proposal's lifecycle with a likelihood of their occurrence and severity to inform the decision whether to approve funding this proposal.

A list of ways to manage each of these risks to acceptable levels.

EFF steals the money	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• EFF is a donor-funded U.S. 501(c)(3) nonprofit organisation</li><li>• It scores the highest rankings on the non-profit watchdog, Charity Navigator <a href="https://www.charitynavigator.org/ein/043091431">https://www.charitynavigator.org/ein/043091431</a></li></ul>
EFF abuses the donation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• EFF provides annual reports and financials to show how its money is spent. <a href="https://www.eff.org/about/annual-reports-and-financials">https://www.eff.org/about/annual-reports-and-financials</a></li></ul>
EFF does not use the donation specifically on crypto projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• EFF states that it primarily directs donors to contribute to its general funds rather than specific work. When EFF has permitted donors to earmark funds for a particular project or goal, they do not take instructions on how to carry out that project or reach that goal</li><li>• Mina could contact EFF to see how its donation would be used and ask if it could be focused on relevant causes.</li></ul>
EFF becomes a lobbying organisation that makes Mina's support look political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• EFF has a donor policy that explains how it protect its independence <a href="https://www.eff.org/pages/note-our-donors">https://www.eff.org/pages/note-our-donors</a></li></ul>