

Open Call for Concept Notes

Healing, Racial, Reproductive, Economic, Disability, and Climate Justice for queer, trans/gender-diverse, and intersex communities in Latin America

I. About the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice

The [Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice](#) (“the Astraea Foundation”) is unapologetically feminist and unapologetically queer; we are proud to be one of the first women’s funds in the world, and the only one solely dedicated to advancing the human rights of LGBTQI+ persons globally. Our work is grounded in intersectional and inclusive feminism as part of a wider struggle for social justice, recognizing that sexism, transphobia, homophobia, misogyny, and restrictive gender norms harm everyone. The Astraea Foundation was founded because women, and specifically LBTQI women, were falling through the cracks within philanthropy and within social justice organizing. The Astraea Foundation was founded by individuals from the communities it serves to combat persistent marginalization. Guided by [feminist funding principles](#), the Astraea Foundation has shifted power and challenged norms by supporting LBQTI-led organizations across the globe in advocating for systems change beginning at the grassroots.

The Astraea Foundation’s reach is unparalleled, and we are trusted by LGBTQI+ and feminist communities worldwide because of our people-centered, human rights approach to grantmaking. Consistent with the feminist principle of “nothing about us without us,” the Astraea Foundation understands that social change efforts are most meaningful and lasting when led by the communities closest to the problems being addressed. Our grantmaking strategies and decisions are informed by our [international activist advisory board](#).

The Astraea Foundation’s International Fund builds critical movement infrastructure that allows frontline organizations from the Global South and East to undertake systems change work. Astraea Foundation’s grantmaking support prioritizes grassroots groups that lack mainstream funding resources; it is focused on sustainable, flexible and long-term funding, with the belief that increased investments in prevention and protection will allow us to move beyond short-term interventions and create resilience among activists and organizations working towards systems change.

Our grantmaking is built on the premise that change must start at the ground level and be led by grassroots activists, community organizers, writers, journalists, scholars, artists, filmmakers, healers, social entrepreneurs, educators, comedians, athletes, and community leaders. The majority of our grants provide core support to enable them to create their own agendas.

We continue to de-silo our work and develop spaces where our communities can collectively imagine alternative futures with circular, blue or solidarity economies, co-creating the needed adaptations to have a practical inclusion and healing for everyone, especially Black and Indigenous people, people with disabilities, young people and migrants. By supporting the continuation of healing houses led by queer, trans/gender-diverse and intersex people and their communities with a sustainable and climate-related disaster risk prevention and mitigation approach, LGBTQI+ people can continue caring for our planet and its inhabitants.

II. Scope

Through this call for concept notes, the **Astraea Foundation's International Fund seeks to award up to 25 one- or two-year grants in February 2025, average grant size is likely to be US\$10,000 per year per organization, but it could be up to US\$20,000.** The Astraea Foundation's International Fund will support approximately US\$350,000 in total for all supported groups. Grant awards for applications will focus on core support for work on healing, racial, reproductive, economic, disability, and climate justice led by queer, trans/gender-diverse, and intersex communities in Latin America.

The Astraea Foundation's deep experience in complex grantmaking, working in and across multiple regions going through complex challenges, with registered and informal groups is critically important to the ecosystem. Astraea Foundation is aware that the movements' needs for funding through complex grantmaking are growing given the politically volatile and hostile environments that most of our grantees operate in. Astraea Foundation commits maintaining flexibility and agility in the face of harsh political trends.

This call aims to support the development and strengthening of activism in Latin America by extending or creating narratives of change, theories of Buen Vivir, anti-racist, anti-ableist approaches, and intersectional collective care to co-construct creative ways of resistance and advances in LGBTQI+ rights.

Therefore, we are prioritizing funding and convening of multi-movement, multi-geography organizing against transnational anti-gender movements.

While all concept notes should address the specific requirements of this open call, our intent is to provide grants in the form of general operating support to organizations or initiatives whose work speaks specifically to healing, racial, reproductive, economic, disability, and climate justice for queer, trans/gender-diverse, and intersex communities in Latin America. If your group works and is based in Latin America and your proposal includes collaborating with groups working in other countries or the Americas or beyond, it will also be considered.

III. Priorities

With the Astraea Foundation's integrated commitment to racial, gender and economic justice, our concept evaluation will be realized through:

- Analysis by the Astraea Foundation's IF advisory committee based on eligible priorities and criteria.
- Open consultation of and accountability to local queer, trans/gender diverse, and intersex communities, particularly Black communities, Indigenous communities, LBQ women, refugees/migrants, people with disabilities, people with the capacity to gestate, healing-related people, and social entrepreneurship groups.

IV. Eligibility Criteria

Every concept note will be evaluated by Astraea Foundation staff and further grantmaking decisions will be informed by our [international activist advisory board](#).

Applicants must consider the following criteria:

1. **Active participation and leadership:** Organizations, collectives or groups must be led by lesbian, bisexual or queer women; and/or trans/gender-diverse and/or intersex people, from the communities most affected by issues that the group works on. Strong priority will be given to the intersectionality of the identities of the members of the organizations and that these are led by Black or Indigenous people, people with disabilities, migrants and/or young people.
2. **Intersectionality:** Organizations must show an understanding of the connections among different and interlocking oppressions facing LGBTQI people and have a commitment to address other forms of oppression based on class, race, ethnicity, age, disability, neurodiversity, gender, national identity, and religious affiliation; or addressing climate justice with creative solutions.
3. **Focus on Social Change:** the organization must develop leadership and build communities' capacity to achieve social change, particularly through proposals that strengthen the organization's ability to organize. Organizing may be defined as activities that actively engage people affected by societal problems in the process of identifying and pursuing solutions. Some examples of activities that you may focus on, but need not be limited to, the following themes:
 - a. **Healing centers/houses** that provide healing activities, circles of reflection, organizing assemblies, psychosocial and legal accompaniment to LGBTQI+ communities and their families, collective care and mental health, sports' teams, collective singing and dancing to celebrate our wins and honor our ancestors.
 - b. **Social entrepreneurship hubs/labs** to encourage economic autonomy and independence while supporting new ways of understanding economic justice

through solutions that could be but are not limited to solidarity economy, food sovereignty, circular economy and/or sustainable economies (e.g. blue economy).

- c. **Formation and strengthening of local, regional, national or international networks** such as regional or national activist-led networks of organizations or groups that are working to reflect and develop solutions, research or solidarity to the interlocking oppressions, it could be “Network of LGBTQI Black Scholars of Latin America” or “Network of Trans and Nonbinary Artists and Filmmakers of Latin America” or “LGBTQI lawyers of Latin America” or such.
 - d. **Advocacy/political incidence**, such as organizations of LGBTQI lawyers and advocates that look to improve the legal systems for everyone, this is not limited to commonly assumed LGBTQI rights such as gender identity and equal marriage, it can be as expansive as possible.
 - e. **Arts and culture** of organized artists, filmmakers, musicians and writers working on a project to make visible or celebrate the power of LGBTQI+ victories, historic memories or any other victories not necessarily linked to LGBTQI identities such as to celebrate people with disabilities, Black liberation, bodily autonomy, religious freedom, environmentally sustainable communities, and so on.
 - f. **Narrative change** of organized journalists, writers, and scholars working to uplift inclusive LGBTQI+ narratives, historic memories or to make a testament of the LGBTQI victories or any other victories not necessarily linked to LGBTQI identities.
 - g. **General work led by LGBTQI leaders and community organizers** that address issues not mentioned above but that are a priority to the local LGBTQI communities of any country in Latin America.
4. **Location of applicants:** Organizations must be based in and work on behalf of communities in one or more of the following countries of Latin America: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela.
 5. **Priority:** Priority will be given to organizations that have integrated or are focused on, healing justice, that are led by Black or Indigenous people, and/or people with disabilities, with trans/gender-diverse, intersex members, that are based in Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, Panama, Bolivia, and where the Astraea Foundation doesn't have a strong presence.
 6. **Budget:** Budget size below US\$500,000 annually. Priority will be given to organizations with limited access to traditional sources of funding or that are pursuing funding for the first time.
 7. **Legal status:** organizations do not need to have legal status to apply.

Grants will be provided as general operating support. If granted, funds can be used to support anything that furthers your mission and is aligned with this call, including operating expenses like rent or salaries.

The Astraea Foundation does not fund:

- Organizations with no leadership of LGBTQI people.
- Organizations with no involvement of lesbians or trans/gender-diverse people.
- Organizations based in the Global North proposing projects with partners based in the Astraea Foundation's funding regions.
- Organizations with centralized leadership from only one individual.
- Individual projects (e.g. graduate research, fellowships, etc.).
- Groups whose sole purpose is to provide charity to individuals, direct social service projects, research projects, or one-time events that are not linked to ongoing social change organizing strategies.
- Efforts that endorse candidates for public office (incl. political parties and election campaigns).
- Capital campaigns, endowments, or deficit financing.
- Organizations with an annual budget size of US\$500,000 and above.

V. How to Apply

To participate, the organization must prepare a concept note of a maximum of 3 pages (in pdf or word) or a video and send it to opencall@astraeafoundation.org, including the following information:

1. **Identification:** Full name of the organization and social media handles. If your organization doesn't have legal status, share the full names of the active members of the organization.
2. **Purpose of funding concept (no more than 1 page):** Describe the proposed work, articulate a main goal, desired outcomes, and how your proposed work fits into a larger struggle for liberation for queer, trans/gender-diverse, and intersex communities. Tell us about your partnerships and alliances. We believe that no one actor or organization can make lasting change alone, and change resulting from collective efforts runs deeper and lasts longer. Since lasting social change requires collaboration, how will your work contribute to a network of efforts for liberation? Successful concept notes will clearly articulate how your proposed work relates to healing, racial, reproductive, economic, disability, and/or climate justice.
3. **Populations served (no more than ½ of one page):** Explain the relevance of your proposed work to the communities with whom you work, and how racial and gender analyses inform the proposed work. In short, who are your communities and how do you anticipate they will benefit from your proposed work?
4. **Organizational budget:** for the most recently completed year.
5. **Amount requested, general operating support or planning support; geographic focus** of the intended impact of the work.
6. **Organization background and history (no more than ½ of one page):** describe the leadership of the organization or group and said leadership's relationship to the communities your work serves.

7. **Additional comments (no more than ½ of one page):** Any additional relevant information the applicant would like Astraea Foundation to take into consideration.

There is no template, you can send it in a written form in word or pdf or video. Concepts are accepted in writing or in video in Spanish or Portuguese. If neither language option is preferable, please contact us before submitting the concept so we may facilitate language assistance.

Concept notes should demonstrate clearly how the proposed work relates to the goals and priorities of this call for concepts, and into the wider context of liberatory work. Shortlisted concept notes will be invited to participate in a virtual interview. Finalists will be invited to submit a full proposal.

Please note that if a concept note is incomplete, proposals will be automatically rejected.

VI. Grant logistics and timeline:

Call for concept notes released	July 12
Concept notes due	August 15
Review of concept notes and references/endorsements collected, finalists notified	August 15 – September 15
Interviews with shortlisted applicants	September 1 – October 4
Full applications invited from finalists	October 1
Full applications due	October 31
Grantees notified of awards € Grants will be for one or two years.	January 2025
Grants disbursed • Up to 25 grants will be disbursed.	February 2025

Questions:

For more information, please contact Lariza Fonseca, Program Officer for Astraea Foundation's International Fund, at lfonseca@astraeafoundation.org

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