



Direct Support Fund Application Instructions

General Instructions

Direct support funds are available to grassroots organizations and individuals working on shale gas issues for purposes that promote social change. **Through the Direct Support Fund, we are able to provide funds for projects that promote social change in areas where shale gas drilling is occurring or could occur.** Examples include travel expenses or registration fees associated with attending strategy sessions or planning events or venue fees or promotional materials for community meetings. Proposals are considered monthly.

Funding requests up to \$2,000 receive preference though larger proposals will be accepted. Please feel free to make copies and pass along or post this document.

Our awards committee strongly considers:

- Proposals from groups with annual budgets not exceeding \$10,000
- Requests from grassroots, citizen-led groups or citizen-activists with few available resources
- Projects that seek to organize, inform or educate community members about the impacts of shale gas drilling
- Projects focused on developing new community leadership, collective strategizing or problem solving, community outreach, or those that support direct action
- Activities pursued in collaboration with other activists, groups or communities
- Travel and/or conference expenses for events that increase networking, strategizing, and communication among activists or grassroots groups.

We do not consider:

- Direct requests for water testing or replacement (although expenses associated with holding a fundraiser to raise money for water for impacted communities or families will be accepted)
- Requests for relief for a specific household (air quality monitoring, health care expenses, expenses associated with temporary living quarters)
- Operating expenses (such as office supplies, payroll costs, or your electric bill)
- Activities that benefit private interest, business, or profit-making groups
- Incomplete applications will not be considered

Instructions

Use the following step-by-step instructions while filling out the application.



General Information

Please include contact information for the person or group making the request for funds. Provide an email address if possible. Tell us a little about your organization or yourself, if making a personal request.

Project Information

What are you planning? Please give your project a name and include a short (3-5 sentences) description of the project.

References

List contact information for two people who would be willing to endorse or recommend you and your project. Please describe your relationship with these individuals and their connection to the project.

Organizational Information

If your work is associated with an organization or group, we need to know a little about it. Do you have an annual operating budget? Have you tried to raise other funds (either through grants or grassroots fundraising, i.e. "pass the hat")?

Budget

How do you plan to spend the funds? Note major expenses, the purpose, and an estimated amount.

Budget Example:

Expenditure	Purpose	Cost
<i>Printing for Flyers</i>	<i>Publicize community meeting</i>	<i>\$300</i>
<i>Postage</i>	<i>Mail flyers to community members</i>	<i>\$175</i>
Total	<i>\$475</i>	



Evaluation

How will you know whether you accomplished what you set out to do? Your evaluation can be numeric (number of people in attendance at a meeting, number of flyers you sent out) or more general (purchased a camera, documented impacts of pipeline construction on local waterways & used this to engage other community members).

What change in your community do you think your project will achieve? How does your project tie into the bigger picture of addressing shale gas impacts at the state or even national level? Social change can be described by a shift in public perception or understanding.

Reporting

A short (one-page) completion form will be required at the conclusion of your project. You will be required to submit electronic copies of receipts, so please be sure to keep them. Please advise if you have any difficulties with this requirement. Any unused funds must be returned within 30 days of the project end date so that they may benefit other individuals or organizations. Additional but related expenses are permitted WITH APPROVAL should a project come in significantly under budget.

Application Preparation & Submittal

Em Hough at the Mountain Watershed Association is available to assist you with the application process. Please use the contact information below.

Em Hough, Mountain Watershed Association
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DSF@mtwatershed.com

The Direct Support Fund is made possible by Cloud Mountain Foundation, The Plastic Solutions Fund, The Heinz Endowments and The 11th Hour Project and is a project of the Mountain Watershed Association.

Organizations serving on the coordinating committee include the Black Appalachian Coalition, Indigenous Environmental Network, Earthworks, Center for Coalfield Justice, People Over Petro Coalition, Marcellus Outreach Butler, Mountain Watershed Association, and the Center for International Environmental Law.