

What We Look For - The Bullitt Foundation's Current Strategic Focus

The Foundation currently focuses most of its grants on strategies that:

- Support legal challenges to ensure that environmental laws are vigorously enforced.
- Foster effective environmental coalitions and further collaboration where appropriate.
- Encourage strong, effective partnerships between grantees and local groups in the private, public, and tribal sectors to achieve broad consensus on issues of general public interest.
- Help build strong grassroots organizations in key geographic areas to influence important environmental decisions. (The Foundation also is committed to building and strengthening the environmental movement. It encourages the inclusion of project objectives that build membership, energize activists, and expand sources of financial support.)
- Support state and regional offices of national environmental organizations whose resources can lend valuable policy and campaign expertise and help assure that the work of local organizations is coordinated with broader regional and national efforts.
- Support credible research, monitoring, and analysis to ensure that advocacy campaigns are grounded in the best available science.
- Support efforts to hold public officials accountable for their actions.
- Help grantees develop and promote appropriate messages for public education.
- Encourage the creation of economic incentives for activities that promote a sustainable future and seek to eliminate subsidies for environmentally damaging activities.
- Support independent certification of the products of environmentally superior forestry, fishing, agriculture, and energy, giving consumers a chance to vote with their pocketbooks.

Regarding the Application Evaluation Process

To ensure compatibility with the Foundation's values and goals and to enhance the prospects for project success, the following guidelines are used to judge potential grants:

- Give priority to projects with broad policy leverage over site-specific work with limited impact, except when local projects attempt significant innovations that could be widely replicated.
- Seek out stable, proven organizations with successful track records, and help to assure their continued strength, effectiveness, and renewal.
- Support leaders who have demonstrated the ability and determination to succeed.
- Foster synergy among Bullitt Foundation grants.
- Complement the work of other funders.
- Pay special attention to regions and policy areas that are not well covered by other funders.
- Fund projects that are based on good science.
- Make long-term commitments to core projects.
- Favor efforts that foster collaboration by groups within the environmental community and that consciously pursue support from other sectors of society.
- Seek out catalytic opportunities where early Bullitt Foundation support can focus needed attention on threatened places or timely issues.
- Give special consideration to requests from groups that represent disadvantaged communities that are suffering disproportionate environmental impacts.