



Puget Sound Stewardship and Mitigation Fund

Applications Due by September 29, 2026

The **Puget Sound Stewardship and Mitigation Fund's** goal is to mitigate past pollution runoff by supporting community-based efforts to protect or improve the water quality of Puget Sound.

The Fund was created by the [Puget Soundkeeper Alliance](#) (Soundkeeper), and it continues to be funded through enforcement actions brought by Soundkeeper and Waste Action Project, among others. These groups share the goal of bringing polluters into compliance with the Clean Water Act to promote cleaner water bodies and healthier fisheries.

The **Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment** welcomes proposals from a variety of environmental groups, including small grassroots conservation and environmental justice groups.

FUND DETAILS

Maximum Funding Request: Up to \$40,000.

Important Dates for Fall 2026:

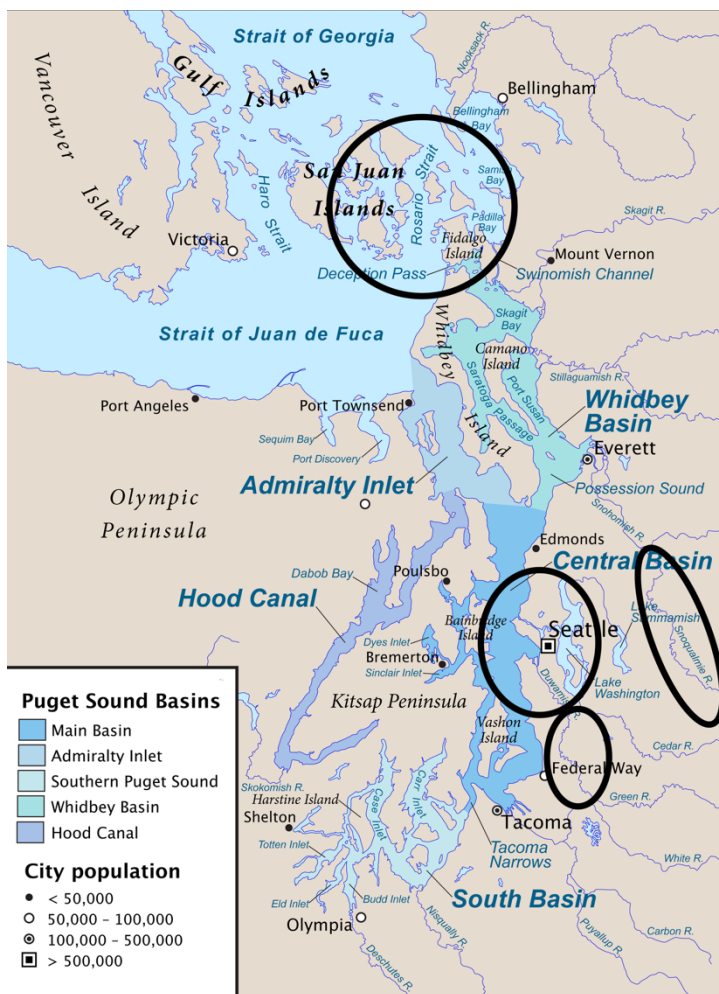
- **July 21, 2026** — RFP Announcement / Application Opens
- **September 29, 2026** — Applications Due (by 5:00 PM PT)
- **December 2026** — Grant Awards Announced

Let's Connect: Have questions or want to book a consultation? Connect with Timothy Bell, tbell@rosefdn.org.

ELIGIBILITY AND PRIORITIES

Applicant Criteria

- The applicant must be a 501(c)(3) organization, fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3), or a governmental or tribal entity. Nonprofit colleges, universities, university clinics, and graduate programs are eligible to apply, but university overhead is limited to 5% of the grant award.
- The applicant must demonstrate the capacity to complete the proposed project, including experience in successfully conducting similar or otherwise related work in the past.



Geographic Eligibility

The location for funding is tied to the areas affected by the enforcement actions supporting the Fund. Projects should benefit one of the following geographic areas:

- **Snoqualmie River Watershed**
- **Central Sound** including Lake Washington & Elliott Bay
- **Green-Duwamish River**
- **North Sound** including Padilla Bay, the San Juan Islands & associated waters

Priority Areas

- The Rose Foundation has a strong preference toward supporting locally-based, community-led projects. If your organization is statewide or national in scope, or has a large multi-million-dollar budget, we encourage you to partner with a locally-based group in your proposal.

- Applications from environmental justice-oriented organizations are highly encouraged.
- Projects that involve impacted communities and are centered around principles of equity will be given preference.

SCOPE OF ALLOWABLE PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

Projects must be designed to improve (or prevent the degradation of) the water quality of Puget Sound and its watershed. Project activities include water stewardship, conservation, outreach and education, restoration, and watershed protection. Project proposals with strong community involvement and participation are especially encouraged.

Below is a list of common project types Rose has funded in the past several years. This list is not meant to be exhaustive, but to give applicants an idea of the projects Rose typically funds.

Water Quality Monitoring & Testing

- Community science or monitoring programs where data will be used to update an agency's dataset, help guide water-related policy decisions, or inform a community or neighborhood plan. There should be a clear purpose for the data collection and a plan for its use.

Watershed Restoration

- Project proposals may include some element of river, stream, creek, or other surface water improvement. This can include a wide variety of projects such as removal of invasive species, planting native species in riparian areas, culvert removal, and similar work.

Green Stormwater Infrastructure Projects

- Multi-purpose projects that reduce stormwater pollution and provide community benefits, such as water for community gardens, workforce development, or improved public and open space.
- Projects that become a springboard for community-driven programs benefiting both people and the Sound.

Emerging Toxic & Chemical Threats

- Projects related to toxic and chemical threats where the substance in question poses a clear public health danger but may not yet be well regulated — for example, “forever chemicals” such as those found in flame retardants, tires, chemical cleaners, and similar products.

Community Leadership & Capacity Building

- Develop capacity for community-led stewardship related to improving the water quality of Puget Sound watersheds. This effort should lead to identifiable actions community members can take to improve water quality through your project proposal.

Other Water Quality Protection Activities

- We will consider some projects related to citizen enforcement of existing water quality laws, rules, procedures, etc. on a case-by-case basis.
- However, any enforcement related project MUST meet geographic eligibility as set out above. Projects with too broad of a target (e.g. all of Puget Sound or statewide) will not be considered as project outcomes must contribute to definable water quality benefits to particular watersheds in the eligible geographic regions.

A Note About Environmental Education Projects

- While Rose believes projects should include components to mobilize and educate community members, projects that are primarily educational in nature with limited direct water quality impacts in the near term are typically not strong candidates for this Fund.
- When engaging students, projects must include identifiable, near-term actions to protect water quality.

EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS THAT ARE NOT ALLOWABLE

The following activities or types of projects will not be funded:

- Endowment, land acquisition, capital improvement (unless the proposed project directly improves water quality), or other similar projects.
- Grants to individuals.
- Grants to for-profit businesses.
- Grants for general operating support where the substantive purpose of the grant funding does not contribute to surface water quality outcomes in an eligible region.
- Grants for projects in waters that are not listed in the geographic scope.

DURATION OF SUPPORT AND GRANT SIZE

- Most grants are for a one-year period; however, you do not have to ask for a one-year grant. You may request a shorter or longer grant period if that is what you need.
- The maximum grant amount is \$40,000 (even if requesting multi-year support).

FREQUENCY OF APPLYING

- Organizations that have been funded may re-apply ONLY in the next cycle after their grant report has been submitted.
- After three consecutive years of funding, groups must wait one grant cycle before reapplying.

HOW TO APPLY

Please read these instructions carefully and follow them step by step. Review all eligibility criteria and priorities before starting an application.

1. **Check your project's eligibility.** Read the eligibility criteria and priorities above, along with the online submission instructions, before starting an application: <https://rosefdn.org/granting/online-instructions/>
2. **Create an online account.** To begin your application, create a profile in our online grants system. You will be asked to enter your Federal Tax ID or Employer Identification Number (EIN). If you are fiscally sponsored, enter your sponsor's EIN. If you do not have your own EIN or a fiscal sponsor, enter 00-0000000.
3. **Complete and submit an application online.** Once signed in, go to the “Apply” menu at the top left of the page and select the application for the current round of the Puget Sound Stewardship and Mitigation Fund. Remember to save your application as you go using the “save as draft” button at the bottom of the page. Applications must be submitted by 5:00 PM PT on the due date.

Access the grants portal and start your application at <https://rosefdn.org/onlineapplication>.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

If your group is awarded a grant, you must provide a final grant report within one year of receiving the funds, or before your group can receive additional funding. If the project is a multi-year project, there may be interim reports as well.