

Common Good Cyber Fund Grant Program

Application Guide

1. Introduction

This guide is for organizations preparing an application to the Common Good Cyber Fund (CGCF). It explains what the application questions are asking and how to respond clearly and completely. This guide is not individualized advice, and it does not suggest what a winning application looks like. It is intended to help applicants present their work in a way that is accurate, practical, and easy to review.

2. Before you apply

Before starting an application, please review the [Common Good Cyber Fund Grant Program page](#) carefully. Prospective applicants should use the Program Page as their main public reference point before applying. It contains the current program description, dates, funding information, and the main criteria applicants should review before deciding to apply. For the 2026 open call, the program page explains that CGCF supports qualifying nonprofit organizations, including U.S. 501(c)(3) organizations or equivalent entities, whose work aligns with the Fund's objectives and strengthens public-interest cybersecurity.

The same page also explains the broader fit CGCF is looking for. Applicants should be able to show that their work is relevant to one or more CGCF objectives, that their organization has credible implementation and governance capacity, and that their work contributes to stronger cybersecurity resilience for high-risk communities or the wider ecosystem.

CGCF may be relevant to different kinds of nonprofit organizations. This can include organizations that maintain shared cybersecurity infrastructure, provide direct protection or response services for high-risk users, or work on evidence, coordination, standards, or practical advocacy that leads to clearer security outcomes. Some organizations may fit more than one category.



Before you begin drafting, it is also useful to gather your core organizational documents, confirm that your organization can receive grant funds in its legal name, and decide who will serve as your primary contact, additional contact, and signatory in the application system.

3. General guidance for preparing your application

Because this is an open and competitive call, this guide does not tell applicants what a strong proposal is. It does, however, reflect common best practices that will help you present your work and our independent reviewers understand the application fairly and efficiently.

- **Answer the question that is asked:** Read each question closely and respond to that exact point. Do not assume reviewers will infer missing information from other sections of the application.
- **Be specific:** Use concrete facts, examples, and short explanations. If you use acronyms or local references, define them the first time.
- **Distinguish existing work from proposed work:** Some questions are about your organization as it exists today. Others are about what future work this grant would support. Ensure that your response aligns with what each question asks.
- **Keep the story consistent:** Your narrative, budget, timeline, documents, and any links you share should tell a consistent story and not contradict each other.
- **Use plain language:** Write as clearly as you can. Short sentences, direct wording, and simple structure make it easier for reviewers from different regions and backgrounds to understand your application.
- **Protect sensitive information:** If your work involves security-sensitive contexts, avoid including operational details that would create risk if shared too widely. Provide enough detail to explain the work without exposing people, systems, or partners unnecessarily.

4. Guidance for application questions



The notes below are meant to clarify what each question is asking, not to prescribe a model answer.

Organization and application details

Question	Guidance for responding
Does your organization have a bank account in the organization's name, and can it receive funds from a foundation based in the United States?	Confirm this before you apply. The account should be in the legal name of the applicant organization. If you are unsure, check with your finance team or financial institution before submitting.
Please demonstrate your organization's capacity to manage a grant award up to the requested amount in the proposed timeframe	Describe your organization's practical ability to manage funds and deliver work over the grant period. You should refer to specific prior grants your organization received and successfully managed, staff roles, financial controls, delivery systems, or similar experience.
Requested Grant Amount in USD	Request an amount that matches the size of the service(s) you are providing. Make sure the amount is consistent with what your organization can realistically manage.
What is the region your work is most focused on?	Answer based on where the funded work will actually take place. You may select from different regions of the world, or you may select "Global" if your organization operates on a global scale. Based on your selection, you will also be asked to enter the country or countries in which your organization works. If your work has one main country but



Question	Guidance for responding
	some regional elements, explain that clearly in the narrative.
Which Common Good Cyber Fund Program Objective does your organization's mission and work align with?	Choose the objective that best matches your organization's core function. If your work spans more than one objective, select the closest fit and explain the overlap elsewhere in the application. Your selection here will add two additional questions to your application that are specific to the objective. Your objective selection will also determine the data that you will need to report on if your organization is awarded a grant. Please see page 6 for further information.
Please tell us about your organization's mission, core areas of work, and how your current programs and activities support that mission. Please include a brief history of your organization, the problems you aim to solve, and any key outcomes achieved to date. Please emphasize your organization's past and ongoing work rather than proposed goals and activities and share links with relevant documentation.	Focus on your organization as it exists now. Briefly explain what your organization does, why it exists, who it serves, and what it has already done. Use links as supporting evidence, not as a substitute for answering the question.



Question	Guidance for responding
<p>Please tell us about any specific target demographic groups or geographies you work with. How does your work serve and respond to the needs of this audience? Please share specific examples documenting your work with this audience from within the past three years.</p>	<p>Describe the communities, sectors, or geographies your organization already serves. Explain how you understand their needs and give recent examples that show how your work has responded to those needs in practice.</p>
<p>Please share examples of how your work has addressed issues of gender equity. How will you continue to build on these efforts as your work continues?</p>	<p>Share practical examples from your organization’s work. This could include how your programming, staffing, service design, partnerships, or learning practices take gender-related barriers or risks into account.</p>
<p>What are key areas of growth for your organization that would be supported by this grant? Please be specific and comment on both programmatic and operational improvements that this funding would make possible within the next two years.</p>	<p>Explain what this funding would help your organization strengthen over the grant period. Keep your answer grounded in realistic growth areas and in changes that are connected to the work described in the application.</p>



Question	Guidance for responding
<p>How does your organization assess its performance, measure the impact of your programs, and adapt your strategy to achieve your goals? Please be sure to describe your organization's existing monitoring, evaluation, and learning resources and practices.</p>	<p>Describe how your organization tracks progress and learns from experience. This can include formal or simple systems. The main goal is to explain how you know whether your work is moving in the right direction and how you adjust when needed.</p>
<p>Please tell us about your Board, including its structure, board members' roles, and any term limits. How often does your board meet, and how do they support decision-making for your organization? How are conflicts of interest managed? If available, share links to recordings of recent board meetings or meeting minutes.</p>	<p>Provide a clear overview of how your board is organized and how it supports oversight. If some formal practices do not apply in your context, explain your current arrangement directly and plainly.</p>
<p>How does your organization approach financial and operational transparency and accountability? Please share</p>	<p>Describe how your organization communicates responsibly about its work, finances, and governance. If you have public</p>



Question	Guidance for responding
any relevant public links to impact and financial reporting.	reports, audits, or similar materials, you may link to them. If not, explain the systems you do have.
Do you intend to pass any portion of this grant to any third parties through subawards, subgrants, contracts, or consultancies? (YES/NO)	Answer yes if any part of the grant would be transferred or paid to another entity or person for delivery of the work, including consultants or contractors. If yes, be ready to explain who would be involved, why, and how those arrangements would be managed.

Objective-specific questions

In addition to the questions above, all applicants will be asked objective-specific questions based on their response to question ‘Which Common Good Cyber Fund Program Objective does your organization’s mission and work align with?’. These questions are meant to clarify the role your organization plays in the broader cybersecurity ecosystem. Beyond these questions, the objective you select will determine the information you will need to report on if your grant is awarded. Please refer to our Reporting Metrics Guidelines document for further information about the data that CGCF grantees are expected to collect and report on. Each program objective is associated with a distinct set of reporting metrics.

Question	Guidance for responding
Objective 1: What specific gap in the public interest cybersecurity ecosystem does your organization fill through	Explain the distinct role your organization plays. Focus on the function you perform, who depends on it, and what



Question	Guidance for responding
its infrastructure or service provision, and what would be weaker or less secure if that function did not exist?	practical difference it makes. Avoid broad claims that are not tied to a clear service, tool, or capability.
Objective 1: How does your organization share information and threat intelligence with other cybersecurity actors at the local, regional, and global levels?	Describe the channels, relationships, or processes you use to share useful information with others. Keep the answer practical. You do not need to disclose sensitive operational details.
Objective 2: What specific protection or support gap does your organization fill for the high-risk Internet users you serve, and why are those users unlikely to receive equivalent support elsewhere?	Explain the problem your organization helps solve for high-risk users and why your role matters in that context. Be concrete about the type of support provided and the audience served.
Objective 2: How do your services and those who use or receive them interface with other cybersecurity actors or institutions at the local, regional, or global levels?	Show how your work connects with the wider field. This may include referral pathways, coordination with peers, escalation channels, partnerships, or other forms of responsible collaboration.



Question	Guidance for responding
Objective 3: What specific gap in evidence, coordination, or practical guidance does your organization fill for vulnerable groups and high-risk communities? What would be missing from the broader ecosystem without your work?	Explain what your organization contributes that helps others make better security decisions or act more effectively. Keep the answer tied to a practical barrier, gap, or coordination problem.
Objective 3: How does your organization ensure that actionable recommendations are shared with key actors and decisionmakers at the local, regional, and global levels?	Describe how your organization communicates practical recommendations to the actors most able to use them. If relevant, note any steps you take to protect sensitive information and how you assess whether recommendations are being received and understood.

5. Guidance for required documents

The application will ask for organizational documents. These documents help confirm legal status, governance, financial standing, and current operating context. Upload the most recent and complete versions available to your organization.

Document	Guidance
Current operational budget	Upload your organization's current operating budget, not only the budget for the proposed grant. This helps show



Document	Guidance
	your present scale and operating context. There is no required template or format for this document.
Organization governing document	Upload a governing document such as articles of incorporation, a charter, or bylaws. If you have several, choose the one or ones that best explain your organization's legal structure and purpose.
Tax Identification Document	Upload an official tax document that helps confirm your nonprofit or charitable status under your legal registration.
List of current institutional funders and the amounts they provide	Provide a simple, up-to-date list. Use the clearest format available. This can be a short table or document.
Audited financials from the the two most recent available fiscal years	Upload audited financial statements for the last two completed years, if available. If your organization does not normally produce audited financials, provide the closest equivalent financial documentation requested in the application.
National tax returns for the two most recent available fiscal years	Upload tax filings for the last two completed years, if they are available in your country and applicable to your organization.



Document	Guidance
501(c)(3) Equivalency Determination, if applicable and available	This is optional. Include it only if your organization already has a current certificate. If your organization does not have one, do not treat that as a reason not to apply.

If your official tax identification or governing documents are written in a non-English language and saved in PDF, please submit the certified version in PDF as well as a Word version.

6. Application process

Applications must be submitted through the Internet Society Foundation's grants management platform, [Fluxx](#). Applications sent by email will not be accepted.

Check the CGCF Program Page for the current application window, deadlines, and any updates to the process. For the 2026 open call, applications are scheduled to be accepted from 23 June to 4 August 2026 at 21:00 UTC.

If your organization is new to Fluxx, leave time to register and upload documents before the deadline. It may take 1-2 business days for your registration to be complete so please plan ahead. If you have any issues with registering to the Fluxx platform, please email fluxx_help@isocfoundation.org in advance. Open calls can be busy, and last-minute technical problems are hard to resolve under time pressure.

7. CGCF Grant Program Application Checklist

- You reviewed the [CGCF Grant Program page](#) before starting the application.
- You confirmed that your organization is eligible to apply:
- You confirmed that your organization is a U.S. based 501(c)(3) charitable organization, or an international equivalent
- You confirmed that your organization has a bank account in its legal name can receive funds from a foundation based in the United States.



- You completed registration in Fluxx (please allow 1-2 business days for registration).
- You selected the CGCF objective that best matches your organization's work.
- You answered each question directly and kept existing work separate from proposed work where relevant.
 - Your narrative, budget, and supporting documents are consistent with each other.
 - You uploaded all required organizational documents that apply to your organization.
- You selected at least two different points of contact, and all are registered in Fluxx:
 - Primary Contact (Required): the individual who will be primarily managing the grant. This person will receive all correspondences from the Foundation relevant to the grant
 - Signatory (Required): the individual who is authorized to sign a grant agreement on behalf of your organization.
 - Additional Contact (optional): any additional individual who you would like to access the grant forms and receive correspondences from the Foundation
- You checked that links in the application work and point to the right materials.
- You clicked the "Submit" button on your application. You should receive an automated confirmation email within 24 hours of submitting your proposal, and your application will appear in the "Submitted Applications" section of your Fluxx dashboard.