



Request for Proposals

Josh Kesselman Foundation Making the World a Better Place

Issue Date: Feb 1, 2026

Proposal Deadline: September 1, 2026

Contact: grants@joshkesselmanfoundation.com

Website: <https://joshkesselmanfoundation.com/>

1. Introduction and Background

The Josh Kesselman Foundation formalizes over a decade of humanitarian and philanthropic work by Josh Kesselman, founder of RAW Rolling Papers and High Times. With an initial endowment of \$2.2 million, the Foundation builds on millions previously donated through direct giving, supporting measurable, high-impact initiatives that create long-term positive change.

The Foundation converts success into service, acting intentionally to uplift communities locally and globally. It emphasizes opportunity, creates obligation and focuses on sustainable, results-driven philanthropy rather than short-term aid. Early grants include support for Freedom Grow (Cannabis Justice) and Senai Global (Clean Water in Ethiopia).

Note: The Foundation does not currently accept outside donations, as funding comes from dedicated endowment resources.

2. Mission and Guiding Principles

- **Mission:** To make the world a better place through action-driven philanthropy that delivers measurable, immediate, and lasting results in underserved communities.
- **Principles:**
 - Giving without limits. Acting without delay.
 - Focus on long-term impact and sustainability.
 - Measurable outcomes and transparency.
 - Uplifting communities with respect, equality, and integrity.
 - Building on humanitarian traditions in clean water, environment, justice, and direct aid.

3. Funding Priorities and Eligible Areas

The Foundation seeks proposals that align with one or more of the following priority areas. Projects should demonstrate clear, quantifiable impact and scalability where possible.

- **Clean Water Access:** Sustainable solutions for safe drinking water in underserved regions (e.g., infrastructure rehabilitation, well systems, filtration).
- **Environmental Restoration:** Ecosystem protection, reforestation, biodiversity initiatives, and climate resilience projects.
- **Social Justice:** Support for individuals and families impacted by systemic injustice, including cannabis-related criminalization, incarceration, and re-entry programs.
- **Global Aid and Humanitarian Projects:** Urgent needs in vulnerable communities, including health, education, and disaster response.
- **Child & Youth Support:** Programs providing stability, education, opportunity, and protection for children in at-risk areas.
- **Animal Welfare:** Initiatives improving lives of animals through rescue, sanctuary, no-kill shelters, and related care.

Strong preference will be given to projects with:

- Measurable outcomes (e.g., number of people served, liters of water provided, acres restored, individuals assisted).
- Partnerships with trusted local organizations.
- Potential for long-term sustainability beyond initial funding.
- Alignment with cannabis culture/community giving back (encouraged but not required).

4. Eligibility

- **Eligible Applicants:** 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, NGOs, social enterprises, or equivalent entities with proven track records. Individuals may apply in partnership with qualifying organizations. For Profit companies with social enterprises that have a clear charitable impact.
- **Geographic Focus:** Open to U.S.-based and international projects, with emphasis on high-need areas.

- **Ineligible:** Political campaigns, religious proselytizing, or projects without measurable outcomes. The Foundation does not fund overhead beyond reasonable administrative costs directly tied to the project.

5. Funding Levels and Terms

- **Grant Range:** Typically \$10,000 – \$100,000 per project, depending on scope and impact
- **Duration:** Typically a single grant fund is awarded that totals the requested amount.
- **Use of Funds:** Direct project costs, with clear budgets. Explanation on fund usage required.
- **Payment Schedule:** Disbursed as a single lump sum.

6. Proposal Requirements

Please submit a concise proposal (no more than 10–12 pages, excluding attachments and budget template) including:

1. **Executive Summary** (1 page)
2. **Organization Background**
3. **Project Description**
4. **Measurable Outcomes**
5. **Team and Partnerships**
6. **Risks and Mitigation**
7. **Budget** (use the template below)
8. **Attachments**

Required Budget Template

All proposals **must** include a completed budget using the template below (or an equivalent Excel/Google Sheet version). The budget should cover the full project period and clearly show how Josh Kesselman Foundation funds will be used.

Budget Category	Foundation Request	Other Funding (specify source)	Total Project Cost
Personnel (salaries/wages)			
Fringe Benefits (payroll taxes, health insurance, etc.)			
Travel			
Equipment (items > \$5,000)			
Supplies & Materials			
Contractual / Consultants			
Other Direct Costs (specify)			
Subtotal Direct Costs			
Indirect Costs			
TOTAL	\$	\$	\$

Detailed Budget Narrative

Provide a 1–2 page narrative explaining each line item, including:

- Number of staff, roles, and % of time allocated to the project
- Justification for travel, equipment, or large purchases
- How other funding sources (if any) will be used
- Any in-kind contributions
- Sustainability plan for costs beyond the grant period

Example Filled Line Items (for guidance only):

- **Personnel:** Project Manager – $\$65,000/\text{year} \times 50\% \text{ time} \times 2 \text{ years} = \$65,000$ requested
- **Supplies:** Water filtration kits for 5,000 households @ \$12 each = \$60,000
- **Travel:** Field monitoring trips (3 staff $\times$ 4 trips $\times$ \$1,200) = \$14,400

Submission Format: PDF via email to grants@joshkesselmanfoundation.com with subject line: “JKF Proposal – [Project Name]”.

7. Review Process and Timeline

- **Review Criteria:**
 - Alignment with priorities
 - Potential impact and measurability
 - Organizational capacity and feasibility
 - Sustainability and innovation
 - Budget efficiency and transparency
- **Process:** Proposals reviewed on a rolling or periodic basis. Selected applicants may be invited for interviews or additional information. Decisions typically communicated within 60–90 days.
- **Reporting:** Grantees must provide interim and final reports on progress, outcomes, and fund usage.

8. Terms and Conditions

- All grants are at the discretion of the Josh Kesselman Foundation Board.
- Funding is contingent on availability and compliance with reporting.
- The Foundation reserves the right to publicize supported projects (with approval).
- Proposals and materials become property of the Foundation.

9. Questions and Contact

For questions or clarifications, contact: contact@joshkesselmanfoundation.com or visit our Website: <https://joshkesselmanfoundation.com/>

We look forward to partnering with visionary organizations and individuals to create meaningful, lasting change.

Josh Kesselman Foundation for Making the World a Better Place.

“Thank you personally for your submission and helping the world reach its potential. All of us here at the Josh Kesselman Foundation thank you for your hard work and dedication to our shared vision of making the world a better place.”

-Joshua Kesselman