



Applying to Join Ed Trust—West’s CORE Collective: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the CORE Collective?

The Communities Organizing for Racial Equity in Education (CORE) Collective is a two-year subgrantee program designed to engender and support the advancement of racial equity, collaborative capacity-building, educational advocacy, resource sharing, and power-building in partnership with BIPOC-led and -serving grassroots community-based organizations engaging in equity-driven educational systems change in California.

2. What type of activities will the CORE Collective support and/or fund?

We are looking to fund and support organizations developing or engaging in campaigns that meaningfully advance racial equity in educational opportunities, resources, experiences, or outcomes for BIPOC students in their local, regional, or state context.

The CORE Collective’s north star is collaborative racial equity power-building in education. We view advocacy and campaigns as two effective ways to manifest equity-minded equitable change, and are interested in supporting and funding additional activities, such as community organizing, alliance and coalition building (including cross-cultural and cross-racial), leadership development (e.g., parents, students), movement building, and narrative change.

We are particularly interested in collaborating with emergent organizations who are interested in developing or have already developed an advocacy campaign that intersects with our organizational policy agenda: [Moving Forward Together: A Policy Agenda for Racial Equity in California Education Systems in 2023](#).

3. Are there any requirements for members of the CORE Collective?

At a minimum, members of the CORE Collective will be required to participate in at least one annual convening with other members, share status updates and progress reports on the campaign that they propose for this project, and submit interim/final reports when requested. More information on the requirements will be communicated upon selection via a grant agreement.

4. Who is eligible to apply?

Please review the complete eligibility criteria on [our webpage](#) and take [the eligibility quiz](#) if you have not already. As an overview, eligible organizations include:

- **Emergent organizations:** small to moderate scale organizations that are in the process of coming into being or becoming prominent in their respective communities on issues of racial equity in education.
- **BIPOC-led organizations:** organizations in which at least 50% of leadership (including the board of directors and executive team) and staff identify as BIPOC.
- **BIPOC-serving organizations:** organizations with a mission statement and programming that prioritize and primarily serve BIPOC communities.
- **Non-profit organizations:** independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations or organizations that are fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization
- **Community-based organizations:** organizations that work at local levels (i.e., neighborhood, town, city, or county) in California and in service of BIPOC students, families, educators, and/or communities throughout the state.
- **Racial equity-focused education advocates:** organizations demonstrating interest in racial equity and advocacy in education.

5. **How much money will be granted?**

Each organization selected to participate will receive between \$35,000 - \$45,000 per year for up to two years (a total of \$70,000 - \$90,000 per organization) to support the launch or execution of a campaign and participation in the CORE Collective.

6. **When is the deadline to apply?**

All completed applications must be submitted by **February 3, 2023**.

7. **When can my organization expect to receive the grant award if selected?**

The grant award for the first year will be issued by June 2023 (after notification of acceptance into the Collective, signing a grant agreement, and processing fund transfer). The grant award for the second year will be issued by June 2024.

8. **What information is needed to complete the application?**

The CORE Collective application comprises five sections and a separate budget proposal. The sections of the application include:

1. Instructions
2. Basic Information
3. Who Do You Serve? / Who Are the Beneficiaries of Your Organization's Work?
4. Who Leads Your Organization?
5. Application Questions and Responses

For a preview of the application, please [CLICK HERE](#).

9. **How should I fill out the budget template in the application?**

As part of the application, we request a project budget outlining at a general level:

- How would your organization allocate the funds available for participation in the CORE Collective (a range of \$35K- \$45K for up to two years)?

- How will your organization use these funds to fuel your organization’s proposed educational equity campaign?

This budget should be in Excel format. You may use an existing template or use the included [CORE Budget Template](#). (Note: when you click this link, it creates an Excel spreadsheet copy in your personal Google Drive account). Detailed line-item instructions are included in the template beginning at row 33 of the spreadsheet.

If you are using an existing template, please make it clear how subgrant funds from the Education Trust–West will be used.

10. Why are you asking us for a budget proposal?

The funds for the CORE Collective are subgrants – as a non-profit organization, Ed Trust–West has raised money from foundations and individuals who are interested in supporting fierce advocates for racial equity in education and investing in California’s community organizing ecosystem. As such, we are accountable to our funders to illustrate how funds have been allocated, and to ensure that funds are spent only on appropriate, mission-aligned, non-profit purposes.

In addition, budgeting is essential to establishing a clear plan for how you might participate in the CORE Collective. Ideally, these funds will help organizations build and expand their work over the next two years. While we aim for these grants to be as flexible as possible, we will ask for interim and financial reports that share how dollars have been spent.

11. How do I submit my application and budget proposal?

To submit the CORE Collective Application and CORE Budget Proposal, please follow these instructions:

CORE Collective Application Submission Instructions

1. Download a copy of the CORE Collective Application Template using [this link](#).
2. Follow the instructions on the document to complete the application.
3. Save your completed CORE Collective Application as a Word document.

CORE Collective Budget Proposal Submission Instructions

1. Download a copy of the CORE Budget Template [using this link](#).
2. Follow the instructions to complete the budget proposal.
3. Save your completed CORE Budget Template as an Excel document.

Submit both documents as attachments to the [submission portal](#) by February 3, 2023.