

# Why Become a BEA Member?

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Building Equity and Alignment for Environmental Justice (BEA) is a dynamic and collaborative formation that brings together grassroots EJ groups, funders, and national environmental organizations to advance equity and justice within the environmental movement.

## Top Reasons to Join BEA

- **Cross-Sector Collaboration:** Participate in collaborative spaces that break down historical barriers between grassroots EJ groups, funders, and national greens, and work towards greater alignment and solidarity across the environmental movement.
- **Community Spaces:** Join a diverse community of EJ groups where members connect across geography and issue areas. BEA hosts spaces for peer learning and share best practices.
- **Leadership Opportunities:** As a BEA member, you can serve in leadership roles, including:
  - Steering Committee
  - Caucus Chair
  - Grant Review Committee
  - And other ad-hoc committees
- **Funding Opportunities:** Grassroots EJ groups active throughout the year in BEA spaces are eligible to apply for funding and can also nominate non-member organizations to access funding opportunities.
- **Amplify Your Impact:** Grassroots EJ groups gain visibility, access resources, and build relationships that support organizational sustainability and amplify community-driven solutions.

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# Who Can Apply to be a Grassroots EJ Member?

BEA's Grassroots Members are frontline-led organizations working to advance environmental justice. We know grassroots EJ groups don't all look the same - and we welcome a range of community-based organizations deeply rooted in their communities and committed to systems change. Your organization may be a good fit for membership at BEA if:

- **You are led by frontline communities.** Your leadership—whether staff, board, or core decision-makers—reflects the people most impacted by environmental injustice; low-income communities, communities of color, and Indigenous communities.
- **You're grounded in community.** You're based in a specific place—whether that's a neighborhood, city, region, or tribal nation—and your work is shaped by the needs and priorities of your community. Even if you work nationally, you may still be eligible if you organize through local chapters or networks that are led by, rooted in, and accountable to frontline communities.
- **You use an environmental justice lens.** Your organization's work is centered on equity and justice, and grounded in the Jemez Principles or the Environmental Justice Principles, or something similar. The work might include organizing around issues such as climate justice, land and food sovereignty, health equity, clean water access, or labor organizing for a just transition, among others.
- **You're building power.** Much of your work is organizing to make change—whether through campaigns, coalition work, advocacy, or deep community building. You may be working locally, regionally, or even nationally—but your vision is community-rooted and justice-driven.

BEA recognizes that not all grassroots EJ groups follow the same structure. We welcome fiscally sponsored organizations, small or emerging groups, and coalitions. Our Steering Committee considers the full picture of your organization's work and leadership.

# How To Apply

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## What Do I Need to Apply?

- Completed membership application [form](#).
- Agree to abide by BEA's Code of Conduct and Membership Agreement.
- Contact information for up to 3 representatives employed or volunteering with the organization.
- Up to 2 references from grassroots EJ groups working in environmental justice.
  - One **must** be from a group working in your region, and one from a current member (they can be the same).

## What Else Should I Know?

- Membership is held by the organization. Individuals are named representatives, and their participation in BEA spaces depends on their employment status or volunteer affiliation with the Member Organization.
- Membership hinges on active participation. Organizations should attend internal programming or have a representative participate in committees to be considered active.
- There are no membership dues for grassroots EJ groups. Membership is reviewed every three years to ensure continued alignment with BEA's mission. This includes a check-in and resubmission of general data.
- Membership applications are open and reviewed year-round, but they're voted on twice a year.
  - Applications received between Jan 1- April 31 are voted on in May.
  - Applications received between May 1- August 31 are voted on in October.
  - Applications submitted between October 1 - Dec 31 are moved to the next cycle due to staff capacity.
- Approved applicants are requested to join an onboarding session to formalize their membership.

**Join BEA today and become part of a vibrant network dedicated to transformative change and environmental justice.**

If you have any questions, contact us at [membership@beajustice.org](mailto:membership@beajustice.org)