

# Binational Resilience Initiative 2024 Grant Guidelines



## Our Strategy

The [Binational Resilience Initiative](#) (BRI) aims to increase the capacity of the Cali-Baja coastal region to survive and thrive in the face of shocks and stresses driven by climate change, as well as other natural, economic and social pressures. BRI supports high-impact, multi-benefit projects and programs that strengthen our capacity to anticipate, mitigate and adapt to our changing climate. Our complex region calls for unique intersectional projects and collaborations to build binational climate resilience. Together, the [International Community Foundation](#) (ICF), [Resilient Cities Catalyst](#) (RCC), the [San Diego Regional Climate Collaborative](#) (SDRCC at The Nonprofit Institute at the University of San Diego) and [San Diego Foundation](#) (SDF) are committed to expanding the impact of BRI in the region. Through a community-guided process, BRI recognizes the interdependent environmental, economic and cultural relationship between the coastal communities in the Cali-Baja region, from Oceanside in the U.S. to Ensenada/San Quintín in Mexico.

Through this initiative, we focus on advancing projects and programs that help increase our region's resilience in a binational approach through the following strategies:

- Leverage the climate work of our BRI project partners to develop binational resources, knowledge and tools to advance coastal resilience.
- Support new and existing cross-border collaborative projects and programs that allow us to connect, adapt, innovate and thrive together.
- Support stakeholders working on improving, restoring and conserving our shared ecosystems.
- Support organizational capacity that advances binational coastal resilience.

## The Need

The Cali-Baja region encompasses a diverse region spanning the entire greater San Diego area in the U.S. and the Pacific side of Northern Baja California, Mexico, between Tijuana and Ensenada/San Quintín. Our focus area within the Cali-Baja region encompasses a wide variety of landscapes from mountain ranges, desert mesas, wetlands, coastal watersheds and the coastline.

Despite political boundaries and the U.S.-Mexico border, communities of the Cali-Baja region are uniquely connected through environmental, economic, cultural, and other interdependencies between San Diego and Baja California Norte. This interconnected and complex region calls for unique intersectional projects and collaborations to build binational resilience. Yet, due to the dissection of the region by the international border, the use of our shared coastal, freshwater, and land resources has been driven by divergent approaches, priorities, and goals. The management and planning for the best future we can build as a region is restricted by the lack of a binational, regional approach that limits the strengths we can lend to each other. This disconnected approach limits our capacity to adapt to climate change, manage and conserve our shared resources, and thrive together.

## The Funding Opportunity

The Binational Resilience Initiative seeks to support projects that help build the resiliency of the Cali-Baja region. We will expand the network of binational partners working to advance the resiliency of the region between San Diego County and northern Baja California coastal communities, as well as enable a diversity of funding mechanisms that generate innovative binational approaches and thriving communities. Grantmaking goals for BRI in 2024 are to expand binational climate collaboration, advance coastal resilience from an integrated, regional approach and provide capacity-building support to organizations working to increase our communities' coastal resilience.

## Specific Criteria for BRI Grants

- Focus on coastal resilience: where the work proposed helps increase our region's understanding of climate change effects on our coastal resources.
- Effective demonstration of binational collaboration: where the work proposed supports true binational collaboration among U.S. and Mexican community-based organizations, scientists, researchers, educators and/or government agencies.
- Contributes to coastal resilience in two or more of these areas:
  - Climate relevance: Directly or indirectly supports efforts that mitigate, adapt or create resilience to impacts from climate change.
  - Economic prosperity: Supports efforts for organizations to obtain additional impact dollars where the project/grant serves to support catalytic funding needs for the organization/project.
  - Knowledge sharing: Supports education and/or communication of binational resilience needs and climate-related impacts.
  - Organizational resilience: Supports efforts related to the long-term resilience and health of the organization, such as resources that directly support organizational capacity-building and staff needs.
  - Research: Creating new knowledge, filling gaps in collective understanding and synchronicity with existing research.
- Nonprofit organizations in Mexico or the U.S. should be the lead applicant but partnerships with other stakeholders are highly encouraged.
- Each binational partnership proposing a project should include at least one U.S. nonprofit (or an entity with an equivalent tax-exempt status) and one Mexican nonprofit (or an entity with an equivalent tax-exempt status).
- The budget can include subgrants between nonprofit organizations if they are working on different areas within the same proposed binational project.
- The budget requested may include up to a maximum of 15% of total direct expenses as overhead or indirect costs. For example, if the total budget requested from BRI is the maximum allowed of \$100,000 per project, then the indirect costs cannot exceed 15% of the direct costs (\$86,957 in combined direct costs, plus a maximum of 15% of these [as indirect costs], will add up to the maximum of \$100,000 per project).
- Funding requested can be up to \$50,000 per year per organization, regardless of the number of partnerships or projects each organization collaborates with.

- Funding requested can be up to \$100,000 per year, per binational project; this maximum includes requests for BRI funding from all partners per binational project.
- Funding can be requested for up to one year. Larger funding requests may require additional information and documentation.

## Application Process

The timeline for the Binational Resilience Initiative grant cycle is outlined below. San Diego Foundation reserves the right to modify these dates and any other terms or conditions outlined in these grant guidelines. All applications must be submitted online by **5:00 p.m. PDT on March 8, 2024 (5:00 p.m. hora local de Tijuana, Baja California)**. We cannot accept proposals by email; we strongly recommend submitting your application as early as possible to avoid technical issues with the online application.

## BRI Grant Cycle Timeline in 2024

All hours are in U.S. Pacific Standard Time (PST), which matches exactly the local time in Tijuana, Baja California. Example: 3 p.m. PST is equal to 3 p.m. local time in Tijuana, Baja California.

Dates	Milestones
<b>February 12, 2024</b>	Grant application opens
<b>February 15 at 3:00 p.m. PST</b>	1st optional meeting to support potential grantees prepare their proposals (virtual)
<b>February 26 at 10:00 a.m. PST</b>	2nd optional meeting to support potential grantees prepare their proposals (in-person)
<b>March 8 at 5:00 p.m. PST</b>	End of the application period (online portal closes)
<b>By May 31</b>	Notifications go out to selected grant proposals

## Eligibility

- SDF will prioritize funding projects taking place in and benefiting communities of concern or historically under-resourced communities that could be considered underserved or vulnerable to economic, environmental and social impacts.
- Projects should be within the BRI focus region which includes the entire greater San Diego area in the U.S. and the Pacific side of northern Baja California, Mexico, between Tijuana and Ensenada/San Quintín.
- Projects should be completed within a 12-month timeline. Please note that we fully understand the dynamic and unpredictable circumstances we may find ourselves in and will be flexible where possible.
- Each proposal must be led by a nonprofit with 501(c)(3) public charity status in the U.S. or led by a donataria autorizada in good standing with the Tax Administration Service/SAT in Mexico.
- A U.S. 501(c)(3) public charity may serve as a fiscal sponsor for another applicant, including Mexican nonprofits, to administer the grant and provide regular financial reporting to SDF.

- Any organization may be part of more than one proposal but may only serve as the lead applicant for one proposal.
- SDF can only make grants directly to nonprofit organizations with U.S. 501(c)(3) status. Therefore, Mexican nonprofits whose U.S. partners in the project cannot serve as their U.S. fiscal sponsor will be assigned to ICF as their U.S. fiscal sponsor. ICF can serve only as U.S. fiscal sponsor, but ICF cannot have any other role in projects applying for BRI funding. Thus, ICF will not be considered the U.S. partner fulfilling the role of a U.S. partner or binational collaborator in Mexican-led projects.
- SDF will not fund endowments, existing obligations/debt, scholarships or projects that promote religious or political doctrine

## About the Review Process

Proposals will be reviewed jointly by SDF staff, as well as staff from our partner organizations and the BRI Task Force, based on relevance to the Binational Resilience Initiative Grant Program criteria described above. Reviewers adhere to a strict conflict of interest policy and other internal controls to ensure that grant funding is distributed based on the merits of each proposal. SDF staff will submit final recommendations to the SDF Board of Governors for final review and approval.

## Questions

If you have questions regarding the BRI application process or the grant program in general, please contact Yamilett Carrillo or Nancy Torres at [environment@sdfoundation.org](mailto:environment@sdfoundation.org).



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