

BXE FRONT LINE SUPPORT FUND:

How it works, how to apply, and how BXE decides

Steps and review process:

1. The Grantee fills out our online application, provides budgetary basis for requested grant.
 - a. You're welcome and encouraged to talk to us about your idea first, by attending one of our general meeting calls, joining our listserv or just calling and chatting with one or more of our regular participants and/or staff.
 - i. You can find us at <https://beyondextremeenergy.org/>
 - ii. The online application is here: <http://bit.ly/BXEFrontLines>
 - iii. Our support fund coordinator is Drew Hudson [Click here to email him.](#)
2. BXE staff & volunteers will reply to your application promptly to tell you we've received it and to invite you to our next General Meeting call (usually Thursdays at 5 p.m. Eastern).
 - a. This is also the best moment to send us any additional info you forgot or couldn't attach to the application. We love detailed budgets if you have them and to know more about what you're working on. If you have newsletters, photos, blog posts or anything else, send them! But this is all optional.
 - b. If there are details of your plan (like a direct action, press release, or new research/info that's newsworthy) - please share them with us directly, and feel like you need to include them into your application. If you have questions about security and who sees this info, ask us on the phone.
3. Once we've received and confirmed your application, we'll send it on to our Front Line Advisory Council to consider. For a list of who's on the Advisory Committee [email Drew Hudson](#)
4. The Advisory Committee has 7 days to send confidential, written advice on your proposal. Members might endorse your application, ask a question, or share strategy and tactical advice. We'll pass on anything relevant to you at the end of the week.
5. We'll make a spot to talk about your application on our next general meeting and share the application as part of the agenda with our listserv (see note above about security). We encourage you to join a General meeting call so you can tell us more about your plan, answer any questions and encourage us to support you.
6. The Budget and Finance Working Group will collect all the notes from the general meeting, all the Advisory Committee, and any additional information and review it on their next call after the General meeting (usually about 2 weeks after you submit your application) **Unless there's a question we can't answer, we'll decide at the meeting whether to approve your request.**
7. The Budget and Finance Working Group will follow up with you after their meeting to let you know what we decided and if you're approved.
8. In general, payments are made by check from EarthWorks Action (our fiscal sponsor) on the Friday after the budget committee votes, and are sent by US mail.
 - a. If you can't wait or need the funds in a different format, let us know. We can process payments by paypal, ACH transfer, or wire transfer in special circumstances.
9. We will follow up with you after the payment is sent to get documentation and a report on how the funds were used. This is important so we can report accurately to our members and funders how their generous donations were used.

Tips and details to make your application easier

Policy and guidelines:

1. Because funds are limited, we cannot make grants of more than \$1000 each, and we cannot fund any single project or organization more than 2 times in a year (January-December)

2. While we support a range of tactics and strategies, including direct action to block fossil fuels and infrastructure, we are generally not able to fund direct legal costs, or cost associated with legal intervening (like paying court fees, bail, lobbyist registrations, intervenor fees etc). Our money is raised by/for a 501c3 charitable organization, and we have to respect their rules and procedures.
3. In general we prefer to fund actions that strengthen your or your group's engagement with the entities you are opposing, like FERC, Spectra, Dominion, etc. That means we're more likely to support a rally, protest, event, or a civil disobedience training than we are a conference, a legal review, or general operating expenses like staff and rent. We do not reject any application out of hand - tell us what you need and how we can help.
4. BXE never supports violence, the threat of violence, or property destruction. We ask you to review and adopt [our pledge of nonviolent resistance](#).
5. We value the opinion and advice of front line fighters and activists more than the advice of pundits, funders and predictors. That's why your first wave of review and support is the Front Line Advisory committee. These are pipeline fighters, fracktivists and friends we've worked with before. We trust these folks a ton, and if one or more of them endorses your application, we'll definitely find a way to support you (though not always with money).
 - a. For advisory committee members, we really do love you! If you don't have time to review an application, just tell us. But if you can, please send written thoughts back to the Budget and Finance committee - we value your opinion, endorsement and critical questions and it helps us provide a written record for funders (which makes it more likely we can get more funding in the future).
 - b. For Grantees/Applications - if you know folks on the committee, feel free to reach out to them and let them know you've applied. But please don't harass. Spamming our friends will not earn you points.
6. It's a really good idea to join the General Meeting call where we discuss your application - as it gives us a chance to "meet" you and ask any questions. The General meeting will not vote on your application, but they will discuss it for a few minutes and your application will be added to the agenda (not your contact info, just the description, budget etc). We also may call a "straw poll" to test consensus. Again, if the General meeting is enthusiastically in favor of, or opposed to, your application, that will strongly influence the final decision.
7. The Budget and finance committee makes the final decision on your application (usually within 2 weeks of your submission). The committee will consider all the previous steps and evidence, and vote by modified consensus. You can [read more about that style of governance here](#), but the short version is everyone has to agree, or agree not to block, for your proposal to be approved.
8. We're not a foundation, we're an activist collective. As such, we don't want to just give you money, we want to *help*. We hope that we can be of assistance by showing up, sharing your work on social media, email and other networks. The BXe family has a lot to offer in terms of media, fundraising, event planning, direct action and more.
9. At a minimum, we'll need to document what you do in a short (1 page) memo or write up, preferably with photos or video to illustrate. These reports are shared with our membership and funders, and help us raise more money to fund the NEXT application.
10. BXE has not given grants like this before, so we have much to learn. Please provide us with feedback and ideas, both now before you have applied for support, and after the process is complete and you understand how it works or doesn't work for you. Thanks