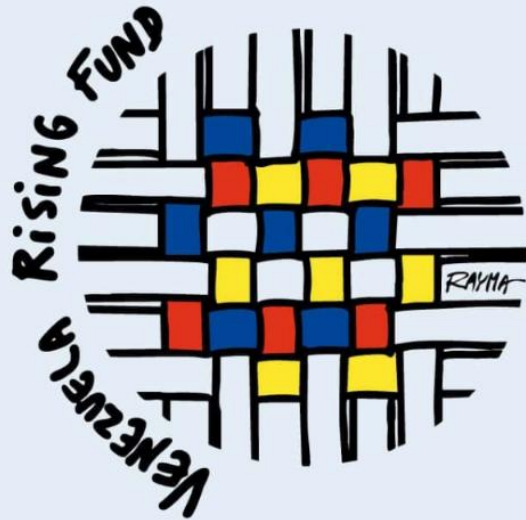


# Venezuela Rising Fund

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



*This document will be updated regularly as new questions are received. Last updated: May 2026.*

### **1. Is there a minimum or maximum grant size?**

The Call for Proposals is open to projects of any size, and there is currently no formal minimum or maximum funding threshold. However, the Venezuela Rising Fund has a total allocation of USD 1,500,000 for all projects, to be deployed over 18 months or until the available funds are fully committed, encouraging applicants to apply as soon as feasible. Applicants are also encouraged to include the estimated cost of a minimum viable version of their project over the next six months, in case full funding cannot be provided immediately.

### **2. What is the deadline, and when are projects evaluated?**

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis over 18 months or until the full USD 1.5 million fund has been committed. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis as they are received. We are committed to providing timely feedback and decisions to support the rapid development and implementation of promising initiatives. Because proposals are evaluated as they are received, applicants are encouraged to apply as early as possible.

### **3. Can I apply for only part of a project or to test the viability of a larger initiative?**

Yes. Applicants are encouraged to include the estimated cost of developing a minimum viable version of the project over the next six months, particularly when full funding may not be immediately available. This can also serve as an opportunity to test and refine larger initiatives before scaling.

### **4. How will funds be disbursed?**

Funding will be disbursed in tranches tied to the achievement of agreed-upon milestones and submission of interim reports.

### **5. What type of expenses and projects are not eligible?**

Project-related expenses, such as staff salaries, travel, and operational costs directly related to implementation, are eligible for funding.

However, we are unable to support funding the following costs or projects:

- Unrestricted donations
- Political campaigns, short-term electoral activity, or legislative lobbying efforts
- Relief aid
- Projects that exclusively serve religious purposes
- Building projects, renovations, or maintenance, including construction materials and labor costs
- Office materials, monthly bills, or rent
- Payment of debts, living costs, or personal needs
- Non-project staff salaries
- Venture capital, private equity, or loans.

Similarly, we will not support projects without a clear implementation timeline, a degree of sustainability, or that are not aligned with the principles of freedom, individual agency, and human flourishing.

## **6. Is co-funding required?**

Co-funding is typically encouraged and preferred. However, for the Venezuela Rising Fund, we are taking a more flexible approach, and co-funding is not required. That said, we expect that some of the strongest proposals may include additional funding partners or complementary sources of support.

## **7. What organizations can apply?**

We welcome applications from a variety of organizational models, including nonprofits, academic institutions, think tanks, social enterprises, universities and other type of organizations provided they can receive donation funding.

## **8. Can individuals, or organizations that are not formally registered, apply?**

Yes, in exceptional cases.

We recognize that in Venezuela, registering a formal organization has been extremely difficult in recent years. If you are an individual with a compelling project and the capacity to implement it, you are encouraged to apply. We encourage you to apply and describe your organizational structure and track record in the application form. Please explain your situation clearly in the application. We will evaluate each case on its merits.

The inability to register formally will not automatically disqualify an applicant. We encourage you to apply and describe your organizational structure and track record in the application form. The option 'Other' is available in the applicant category field for this purpose.

## **9. Can I apply if my organization is outside Venezuela?**

Organizations based abroad are eligible to apply, provided they are working on Venezuela-focused initiatives that contribute to rebuilding the country's market economy, strengthening its institutions, and expanding opportunities for prosperity and human flourishing inside Venezuela.

## **10. Can projects based outside Venezuela have impact inside the country?**

Yes. We accept applications for projects targeting the Venezuelan diaspora, provided the initiative has a clear and direct impact inside Venezuela — whether through talent repatriation, institutional support, education, or other means. Applicants should clearly explain the connection between their location and their in-country impact.

### **11. What stage should projects be in?**

We welcome projects at different stages of development, including early-stage ideas, pilot initiatives, and efforts ready to scale. Ongoing projects are eligible to apply, particularly if they are seeking funding to expand, consolidate, or scale their impact.

### **12. Can I apply for a project that is already underway?**

Yes. Ongoing projects are eligible to apply, particularly if they are seeking funding to expand, consolidate, or scale their impact. Please describe the current status of your project, what has been achieved so far, and how the grant would contribute to its next phase.

### **13. What types of projects are you looking for?**

We are especially interested in projects that strengthen free markets, individual agency, entrepreneurial mindset, independent institutions, and sustainable prosperity. Projects may include policy innovation, entrepreneurship, education, journalism, talent repatriation, institutional reform, technology, civic infrastructure, or other initiatives aligned with our core values and the building of a free society in Venezuela.

### **14. What types of projects are not a fit for the Fund?**

The Fund cannot support partisan political campaigning or short-term electoral activities. It also does not support relief aid or interventions without a long-term empowerment component, projects without a clear implementation timeline, or initiatives that are not aligned with the principles of freedom, individual agency, and human flourishing. The Fund does not provide venture capital, private equity investments, or loans.

### **15. Are research-only projects eligible?**

Yes. While the Fund places strong emphasis on implementation and real-world impact, research projects are eligible when they contribute meaningfully to the design, testing, or advancement of reforms and institutional solutions for Venezuela. Preference may be given to projects with a clear pathway toward practical application or public impact.

### **16. Is there an application deadline?**

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the full USD 1.5 million fund has been committed. Because proposals are evaluated as they are received, applicants are encouraged to apply as early as possible.

### **17. Can I apply in collaboration with other organizations?**

Yes. We welcome collaborative projects in which organizations pool their comparative advantages, specialized expertise, and networks. Collaborative proposals must designate one lead organization that assumes full accountability for the grant. Partner roles should be clearly described in the application. Organizations interested in submitting a joint application are welcome to contact us for guidance.

### **18. Can organizations submit more than one proposal?**

In general, we prefer to fund only one project per organization at a time. That said, organizations applying to the Venezuela Rising Fund may submit more than one proposal, particularly when the projects address different focus areas or strategies. Applicants are encouraged to consider whether multiple initiatives could be integrated into a broader, more coherent proposal with a shared vision or implementation framework.

### **19. What is the selection and evaluation process?**

All proposals will undergo a thorough review process led by a committee that includes leading international experts. Projects that advance beyond the initial review stage may be invited to

participate in interviews and additional due diligence processes. Final decisions are expected to be communicated within one month of submission.

**20. Will funded projects receive support beyond funding?**

Selected projects, on an as-needed basis, may receive access to mentorship, strategic guidance, expert networks, and participation in co-creation forums with leaders and practitioners working on the future of Venezuela.

**21. Can projects receive renewed or follow-up funding?**

Yes. Projects that successfully demonstrate proof of delivery, measurable progress, and strong potential for long-term impact may be considered for renewed or follow-up funding. However, applicants will need to submit a new application, which will be evaluated independently as a separate proposal.

**22. Can I still apply to the general Freedom in Practice fund?**

Yes. Applying to the Venezuela Rising Fund does not prevent you from applying to other funding opportunities at Rising Tide Foundation, either now or in the future. However, applicants should keep in mind that the general Freedom in Practice Fund operates under different criteria, focus areas, and review and approval timelines and approval timelines. That said, we have a preference to only fund one project at a time per organization.

*For additional questions, please contact us at [venezuela@risingtide.ch](mailto:venezuela@risingtide.ch)*