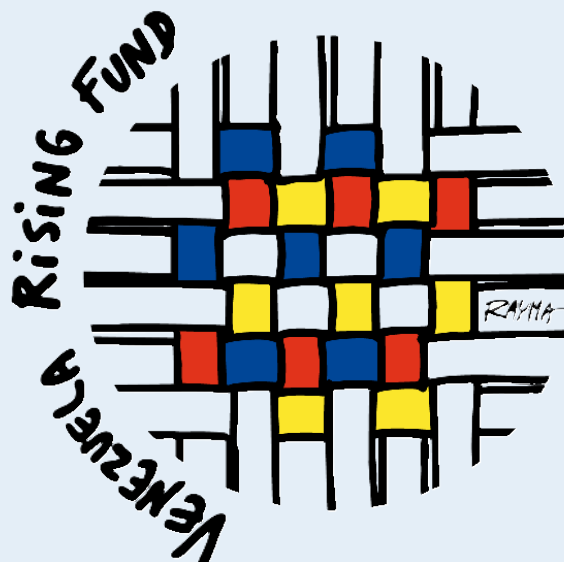


# Venezuela Rising Fund

## Call for Proposals



## Background

Between 1950 and 1975, Venezuela was widely regarded as one of the most prosperous economies in Latin America. Over time, this prosperity was significantly eroded, most especially during the last 26 years of a populist regime characterized by socialistic economic policies, authoritarian rule, rampant corruption, the promotion of a collectivist mindset and the brutal repression of dissenters.

As has recently been stated, “The collapse of Venezuela was caused by bad ideas and unscrupulous leaders, with the support of many who place short-term profits and professional prestige above the welfare of their citizens.”

But not all is lost: a cascading of recent events has brought hope: Maduro’s defeat in the 2024 elections, the Nobel Peace Prize Award to Marina Corina Machado in October 2025, and the removal of Maduro from power in January 2026. Hope is rising inside and outside Venezuela.

The events of January 2026 have opened a critical, yet fleeting, window for Venezuelan renewal. After decades of institutional erosion, the priority has shifted from dissent to construction. The Venezuela Rising Fund—a USD 1.5 million initiative by the Rising Tide Foundation—is designed to capitalize on this momentum by seeding the reforms necessary for long-term prosperity.

Our vision is to empower innovators to start and sustain the tangible work of advancing freedom—moving beyond the conceptual and into practice. With free elections anticipated in the coming year, it is critical that the necessary reforms, restructurings, and innovations are ready to be deployed the moment the political doors open. Moreover, it also looks to leverage a critical asset: a global diaspora of nearly 6 million individuals with the talent, networks, capital and passion to support their country’s rebuilding and prosperity. This is what The Venezuela Rising Fund will make possible.

## What Types of Projects Are We Considering?

We are searching for leading institutional and intellectual entrepreneurs, innovators, reformers, and visionaries to address some of the most pressing issues over the next 18 months. This includes:

- Moonshot ideas for the **development of free institutions** in Venezuela;
- **Free market reforms** to generate economic growth and material well-being (think, tax reform, labor market reform, monetary policy, economic diversification, investment attraction, deregulation, energy sector reform, decentralization, property rights etc.);
- Work on the ground to **build the next generation of freedom-lovers** in Venezuela (think education initiatives, mindset development programs, skills and workforce development, etc.);
- A **rebuilding of a culture of entrepreneurship** in Venezuela (replacing the current government largesse with private sector solutions);
- Programs working for the **return and reintegration of refugees and political exiles** back to Venezuela;
- Reforming and rebuilding the Venezuelan **primary and secondary education** sectors.
- Developing a **new generation of communicators and free-press advocates** who promote and defend the principles of a free society. As well as supporting data entrepreneurs who help rebuild data and statistical capacity to provide reliable information for decision-making.



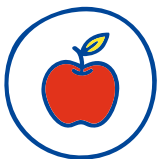
Return of Talent



Institutional Reform



Entrepreneurship



Education



Economic Growth

## How to Apply

For your project to be considered for The Venezuela Rising Fund, we ask that you submit a proposal in our grant management system.

Given the urgency of the current situation, we are committed to making quick decisions, providing an answer on funding within one-month of submission. In recognition of this, we have streamlined our application process to get to the root of your project and motivation quickly through several questions:

### 1. Your Story

What is your background? How did you learn about the Venezuela Rising Fund? Why do you care about a free Venezuela?

### 2. Your Vision

What is your vision for a free Venezuela? What guiding principles should shape the society you want to help build? How would your vision expand opportunity and dignity for Venezuelans?

### 3. Your Project

Please provide a description of your project: What problem is your project addressing? How is your project practically addressing this problem? How will it contribute to strengthening free institutions or expanding opportunity in Venezuela over the next 18 months? Why are you (or your team) best positioned to execute this project?

### 4. Track Record

How long have you been working on this project? How long have you been working in the field of the proposed project? What past results or experience indicate your ability to execute this project successfully?

## How Much Funding for Projects

We are interested in projects of any amount, that meet the need(s) of the current moment. The fund is limited to USD 1.5 million in total disbursements, and project funding will take this into consideration.

In the project application, we would like to know what your total project will cost as well as the cost it will take to deliver a minimum viable product within 6 months.

## How to Get in Touch

During the application process, if you have any questions concerning the suitability of your project, how to complete the application, or technical details please contact us at [venezuela@risingtide.ch](mailto:venezuela@risingtide.ch). We will get back to you within 48 hours with more information. Project applications will be received as of May 7th 2026.