

Sample Project Scope



Shared Insight developed this Project Scope for our [Participatory Climate Initiative](#). Below are the initiative's learning goals, requirements, and recommendations – defined by the funders and passed along to our Design Team. Consider what are the required parameters of your funding before opening up decision making to those outside of the foundation.

Learning Goals

The project, focused on climate change, will support funders to deepen their practices in these two areas:

Funding work that involves people in the policy decisions that impact them, with a focus on those least heard and most impacted by those policy decisions.

Participatory grantmaking as a way to elevate beneficiary voices and share power, with a focus on those least heard and most impacted by funding decisions.

Requirements for the project

Requirements are firm decisions that are made by Shared Insight's Advocacy/Policy Change Committee before the participatory design phase. The participatory design team must abide by these requirements.

Grants will fund work in the broad area of climate change policy.

Grants will fund work that involves people in policy decisions that impact them.

The grantmaking process and the design phase will be participatory.

The participatory design team will integrate equity/diversity/inclusion lenses from the beginning of the design phase, and be explicit about including the voices of people most impacted and least heard.

No climate deniers will be involved with the participatory design phase.

Grants will fund work happening only in the U.S. (inclusive of all 50 states, territories, and Washington D.C.). (Note: We are discussing language that will also be inclusive of tribal nations and Native communities that may not be adequately included in this definition.)

Requirements around grantmaking will be defined by our fiscal sponsor. Shared Insight will not add additional requirements that narrow the parameters set by our fiscal sponsor.

Recommendations to design team about the project

Recommendations will be considered by the design team, but they are not requirements. Shared Insight's Advocacy/Policy Change Committee will accept the decision of the design team in these areas, even if they diverge from recommendations.

Design for learning. For example, a focus on a specific geographic area may enable us to more effectively trace results and learn from them.

Consider integrating this work with decision-making tables that already exist and could benefit from more community involvement with policy decisions.

Align the geographic or thematic focus with work that Shared Insight members are already involved in to encourage interest in the results among funder institutions.

Avoid the use of terms like "climate justice" in favor of a "big tent" approach that adopts inclusive language that will not alienate stakeholders.

Consider focusing grants exclusively on Native or Indigenous communities, and take into account the historic exclusion of Native or Indigenous people from advocacy and philanthropy.