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Agreements for Good Application Questions

Welcome

Thank you for your interest in Agreements for Good, a grantmaking initiative of the Docusign Foundation.

This form is the official grant application for new collaborations that have completed the Alignment Check and been invited to apply. The information you share will help us understand your collaboration in more depth and determine whether it's a good fit for this funding program.

About the Grant Application Process

The Docusign Foundation awards about $1 million per year, typically funding 5-10 grants annually. Grants range from $20,000–$100,000 for one-time projects to $100,000–$200,000 per year for up to two years for multi-year collaborations.

- Once submitted, the foundation team will review your application using the evaluation rubric, which outlines the criteria for assessing applications.
- Applicants who are most aligned with the rubric will be advanced to the next stage of the process, which involves a brief conversation with the foundation team.
- Applicants not selected to advance will be notified by email.
- We accept full applications during defined windows. The next application window will be open from March 1, 2026 through May 1, 2026, with all applications due by May 1, 2026. The following application window will open on February 1, 2027.

The process has been intentionally designed to be transparent and self-guided, so all applicants have equal access to the same information and opportunity. We are not able to offer individual consultations.

Thank you for the work you're doing to build trust, strengthen collaboration, and create agreements that last.

Before You Begin

We know your time is valuable. In this application, you'll be asked to describe your collaboration, who's involved, and how you're working toward a specific agreement.

Leveraging existing materials you have and/or AI to support your writing is welcome. We're not looking for polished language — just clear language that helps us understand your collaboration.

Choose Your Application Type

Agreements for Good supports collaborations at two different stages: new collaborations and established collaborations.

In this section, we will ask you to self-assess whether you are a new collaboration or an established collaboration. This choice is not about quality or competitiveness. Both collaboration stages are equally welcome and reviewed using the same evaluation rubric; the only difference is the types of application questions you will be asked.

How to choose your stage

Is your collaboration today a new collaboration or an established collaboration?

A helpful way to decide is to ask whether all three of the following are true:

- You already have multiple organizations that have committed to working together
- Those partners have already been meeting or working together in some way
- You already have some shared agreements or commitments in place (for example, a defined purpose, norms, decision-making process, governance structure, or collaboration model)

If you can answer yes to all three, choose Application Type A: New Collaboration.
If you cannot answer yes to all three, choose Application Type B: Established Collaboration.

When in doubt, choose the option that reflects your current reality, not where you hope to be.
Clear self-assessment helps us review applications more fairly.

Which application type best describes your collaboration?

Application Type A: New Collaborations

This application is for groups that are in the early stages of coming together around a shared issue, goal, or opportunity. Your collaboration may still be building trust, alignment, or shared purpose, and may not yet have clear agreements or a track record of working together. You might be:

- Planning or hosting a convening, dialogue, or summit to explore working together
- Forming an early partnership and beginning to define roles or next steps
- Testing whether there is enough shared interest or alignment to continue collaborating

Application Type B: Established Collaborations

This application is for collaborations that are already working together toward shared goals. Your group has existing partners, has made at least some agreements about how you work together (formal or informal), and can point to evidence of collaboration so far. You might be:

- Continuing or expanding an existing partnership or network
- Strengthening shared governance, agreements, systems, or coordination
- Deepening community leadership, power-sharing, or accountability structures
- Sustaining or building on work you've already begun together

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Select Your Funding Priority Area

Environment & Sustainability

Investing in agreements and solutions that enable people and nature to flourish together on a healthier, more resilient planet. This includes efforts such as:

- Climate: reducing greenhouse gas emissions, advancing adaptation and resilience, strengthening accountability for climate commitments.
- Environment: restoring and protecting ecosystems, water, air, and biodiversity through collaborative governance and stewardship agreements.
- Sustainability: building partnerships for sustainable production, supply chains, circular economy models, and responsible resource use.
- Energy transition: accelerating the shift to clean, renewable energy through equitable transition plans and community-led innovation.

Data Privacy & Security

Investing in agreements and solutions that enable people to participate in a digital world with trust, safety, and sovereignty over their data and identities. This includes efforts such as:

- Protection: guarding against breaches and safeguarding sensitive information, including risks amplified by AI.
- Standards: strengthening global standards and compliance frameworks for data protection and digital rights. Innovation: advancing new approaches to how technology and data are designed and governed to build a digital world rooted in trust.
- Access: expanding safe digital access for nonprofits, small businesses, and individuals to participate securely in the digital economy.

Future of Work

Investing in agreements and solutions that enable every person to thrive in an AI-changed world with stability, opportunity, and dignity. This includes efforts such as:

- Pathways: building career and reskilling programs for digital, green, and AI-enabled jobs.
- Access: expanding fair access to economic opportunities by addressing barriers and creating entry points for diverse workers.
- Transformation: shaping how AI and emerging technologies can support fairer, more creative, and human-centered workplaces.
- Resilience: strengthening safety nets and shared prosperity during economic transition.

Please select the Docusign Foundation priority area(s) your collaboration aligns with. You may select more than one.

- [ ] Environment & Sustainability
- [ ] Data Privacy & Security
- [ ] Future of Work



All Applicants Questions

Applicant Information

Applying Entity Name

Applying Entity Tax ID

Applying Entity Type

- [ ] 501(c)(3) nonprofit or global equivalent
- [ ] Fiscally sponsored project or global equivalent
- [ ] State, tribal, or local government entity or global equivalent
- [ ] Other (please describe)

Is Applying Entity the lead organizer / backbone organization for this collaboration?

Collaboration Name (if different than applying entity name)

Collaboration Mission / Vision statement (if available)

Collaboration Website or Reference Link (if available)

Your First Name

Your Last Name

Your Email Address

Your Role / Title

One Sentence Impact Summary

In 1-2 sentences, please summarize your theory of change for this agreement. Please describe this as a simple cause-and-effect statement, for example:

If the people or organizations involved are able to come to agreement on ____, then ____, leading to ____.

Your response should make clear how this change advances impact in your selected issue area(s) (Environment & Sustainability, Data Privacy & Security, and/or Future of Work).

Provide your one sentence impact summary here

Application A Questions

I understand that, as a new collaboration, we are eligible for one-time funding under Agreements for Good. Our total one-time funding requested (an amount between $20,000 & $100,000 USD) is:

Instructions

Please answer all questions. Unless otherwise stated we recommend an answer length between 150-250 words.

At Docusign, we think of "agreements" as the cross-organizational understandings about how partners work together, make decisions, and share ownership, power, and responsibility towards a common goal. Agreements can take many forms, from common agendas and governance structures to joint plans or shared accountability frameworks.

About Your Collaboration

A.1. What shared issue or opportunity are you hoping to explore together through this convening or collaboration?

Please describe the broader social, environmental, or structural issue your collaboration seeks to influence, not the internal goals of your partnership. In your response, please also help us understand: (A) How this work advances meaningful impact in one or more of our issue areas (Environment & Sustainability, Data Privacy & Security, and/or Future of Work); (B) The scale of what's affected, for example, people, communities, land, ecosystems, systems, or institutions; (C) Why this feels like a meaningful moment to explore this work now.

A.2. Who's at the table (or will be soon)?

Describe the organizations, groups, and/or community leaders currently involved, and who else you hope to invite in.

A.3. How are community voices involved or how might they be in the future?

Tell us how people most affected by the issue are shaping or leading the collaboration, or how you hope to include them.

About your approach to collaboration and agreement

A.4. What lasting agreements or shared foundations are you hoping to build?

Describe the kind of commitments or frameworks you hope will emerge, big or small, that could help people keep working together after the event or grant ends.

A.5. How are you helping participants build trust and find common ground?

Describe what you're doing or planning to do to help participants or partners connect, listen, and start building understanding. For example, how are you inviting people, structuring discussions & decision-making, or making sure different voices are heard?

A.6. What will you learn together?

What questions or insights are you hoping to explore through this collaboration or convening?

A.7. How will you use this grant funding to move your collaboration forward?

Describe what you plan to do with the funding — for example, host a convening, design a pilot, draft a shared vision, or deepen relationships. What would success look like after one year?

Application B Questions

Please select the type of funding you are requesting:

- [ ] One-time grant (between $20,000 and $100,000 total)
- [ ] Multi-year grant (between $100,000 and $200,000 per year, for up to two years)

What is the total amount you are requesting (USD)?

Please enter the full amount across all years. For example, a one-time request of $50,000 would be entered as $50,000 total. A 2-year request at $150,000 per year would be entered as $300,000 total.

Instructions

Please answer all questions. Unless otherwise stated we recommend an answer length between 150-250 words.

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About Your Collaboration

B.1 What broader issue is your collaboration focused on, and why does it matter to the people or communities involved?

Please describe the broader social, environmental, or structural issue your collaboration is addressing, not the internal goals of your partnership. In your response, please also help us understand: (A) How this work advances meaningful impact in one or more of our issue areas (Environment & Sustainability, Data Privacy & Security, and/or Future of Work); (B) The scale of what's affected, for example, people, communities, land, ecosystems, systems, or institutions; (C) Please assume the reviewer may not have deep background in your issue area.

B.2. Who are your core collaboration members?

List the organizations and leaders currently involved in your collaboration, or the types of members/partners you're recruiting if still expanding.

B.3. How are communities most impacted by this issue involved, or how might they be in the future?

We encourage collaborations to include leadership and insight from the people most proximate to the issue. Describe how community members, grassroots groups, or lived-experience leaders are shaping the collaboration or how you plan to deepen their role.

B.4. How is your collaboration governed, and how are decisions made?

Describe your structure (e.g., committees, shared leadership, or joint governance) and how decision-making, authority, and accountability are shared.

About your approach to collaboration and agreement

B.5. What specific agreement(s) are you working to create, strengthen, or scale across your members?

In your response, please describe the agreement you're working toward, what it makes possible beyond individual efforts, and how it contributes to meaningful outcomes in your chosen issue area(s) (Environment & Sustainability, Data Privacy & Security, Future of Work).

Application B Questions Continued

B.6. Why has it been challenging for people or organizations to come to agreement on this issue in the past?

Please describe the historical, structural, or relational factors that have made agreement difficult or slow to emerge (for example, power dynamics, trust gaps, policy or legal barriers, resource constraints, or shifting conditions). In your response, please also describe what has changed recently that makes progress more possible or more urgent, and what is at risk, stalled, or likely to be lost if agreement does not move forward in the next 1–2 years.

B.7. What outcomes or changes do you hope to see as a result of this agreement?

Please describe both: (A) the changes in how partners work together (e.g., trust, coordination, governance); and (B) the downstream effects on people, communities, environments, or systems that this agreement helps enable.

B.8. What approach are you using to design and sustain the agreement together?

Please describe the process you are using to design, build, and sustain the agreement over time. Focus on your plan to make the agreement (for example, through a series of convenings, co-design sessions, joint research, etc) and include your timeline.

B.9. What do you hope to learn through this work?

Describe what you hope to learn about building and sustaining effective agreements through this grant. What insights might emerge about decision-making, governance, shared power, or accountability, and how could those lessons benefit others?

B.10. How would funding from the Docusign Foundation help you build or strengthen this agreement?

Describe the specific activities or costs this funding would support and how they help partners reach or uphold agreement. Funding can be used for collaboration infrastructure, such as facilitation, convenings, backbone coordination, shared tools, research, communications, or other supports that strengthen trust and alignment across organizations.


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