



• **KINDLING INITIATIVE GRANTS FOR ACADEMIC RESEARCHERS AND INSTITUTIONS** •

2026

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KEY INFORMATION ABOUT KINDLING INITIATIVE GRANTS

What is the purpose of the Kindling Initiative?

To fire up academic researchers and institutions’ interest in the negative impacts of industrial animal agriculture: Building capacity within academe; communicating insights and serving as a trusted voice beyond academe.

Who are the intended grant recipients?

These grants are offered to universities, to academic researchers working in universities, and to academics-led organizations. Applicants need not be located in the U.S. They should hold PhD or equivalent degree.

What topics and issues do these grants focus on?

These grants focus on understanding and tackling drivers and adverse effects of large-scale, industrial food animal production, especially concerning low- and middle-income countries. A broad range of topics and issues are covered, from environmental issues, animal welfare, to government policies, and concentration of corporate power.

Can these grants be used for conducting research?

No. These are not research grants as commonly understood. They support administration, outreach, organizing, and other expenses for building institutional capacity and networks of academic researchers, for heightening interest in research and teaching, for disseminating and communicating research findings, for assisting and offering guidance to those outside academe, for serving as trusted experts to non-academic sectors.

What is the amount and duration of each grant?

There is no fixed upper or lower limit for each grant. A grant can be one-time (e.g. for a single workshop), or for a period of 6 months, or 12 months, or 18-36 months. Only in exceptional cases will a grant provide over \$50,000 in 12 months.

When and how to apply?

The first step in the application process is to submit a Concept Note prepared according to the instructions below.

Inquiries and applications are accepted YEAR ROUND. Send them to: min@tinybeamfund.org

I. About Kindling Initiative

- Tiny Beam Fund is a small U.S.-based charitable foundation. Its mission is: First, to deepen understanding of the complex drivers of animal agriculture industrialization, and the negative impacts associated with industrial animal agriculture, especially in low- and middle-income countries. Second, to translate the deeper, more nuanced and contextualized understanding into practical steps to address these impacts. In addition to the two pillars of (i) industrial food animal production, (ii) low- and middle-income countries, a third pillar of Tiny Beam Fund is its focus on supporting academic researchers and institutions (universities).

- Focus of Kindling Initiative:
The negative impacts that industrial food animal production has cast upon human communities and societies, animals, and the environment, especially concerning low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). What are the adverse effects and problems? What are the drivers of the adoption and persistence of this system of production and value chain all over the world, the dynamics and trends? How to prevent and mitigate harmful practices and outcomes? How to tackle this model's deep flaws, to disrupt this system?
 - The term "industrial" is used to refer to a distinctive system of production and type of value chain characterized by features such as low genetic diversity, confined housing, controlled feed and diet, high stocking density, high throughput, vertical integration, corporate consolidation.
 - Sometimes (not always) "industrial" can be replaced with the terms "large-scale" or "intensive".
- The purpose of this initiative is to encourage academic researchers as well as institutions to:
 1. *Build capacity and networks* to sustain a robust interest in this broad topic within academe.
 2. *Disseminate and communicate* beyond academe the knowledge and insights that researchers have acquired on this topic, serving as respected voices, thought leaders, and trusted sources of information for key segments of society.
- *A grant can focus on capacity and network building, or on dissemination and communication, or both.*
- Kindling Initiative grants are *not* "research grants" as commonly understood. They should *not* be used for undertaking a substantial amount of research (*not* literature reviews, fieldwork, writing academic papers). These grants are meant to support activities and defray expenses related to administration, management, promotion, assisting those outside academe, outreach efforts, etc.

II. Objectives and examples of grants that focus on capacity building and networking

- Elevate and publicize the reputation of a university or an academics-led professional organization as an academic hub widely known for its interest in the negative impacts of global industrial animal agriculture.
- Make the adverse effects of industrial animal agriculture (particularly concerning LMICs) more visible, relevant, and salient in the teaching and research done in universities.
- Help academics interested in addressing drivers of and problems caused by global industrial animal agriculture to organize networks and rallying points to support each other, reach out to peers less familiar with this topic, and encourage PhD and Master's students to study it.
- Examples:
 - As incentives to students (e.g. prize money in essay competitions; rewards for organizing activities that involve fellow students and/or local communities).
 - Hold events to engage with academic researchers from diverse fields and career stages.
 - Organize sections / panels at conventional professional conferences.
 - Support the administration of scholars exchange programs that focus on researchers in LMICs.
 - Plan substantial collaborative projects that include academics from different parts of the world.
- There are few grant opportunities that help academic researchers to strengthen a field or topic they care deeply about and which they want to study for a long time. Universities, research centers, scholarly organizations also find it challenging to secure funding for non-research work and activities. This is the gap Kindling Initiative grants would like to fill.

III. Objectives and examples of grants that focus on dissemination and communication

- Make academic research on the negative impacts of industrial food animal production – especially concerning LMICs – readily accessible and digestible to those outside academe.

- Help academics studying the drivers, problems, and possible ways to tackle global industrial animal agriculture to reach out to and share their knowledge with non-academics who can benefit from their expertise (e.g. quasi-governmental bodies, front-line groups). And earn their trust and respect.
- Examples:
 - Reach out to discerning public audience (e.g. write pieces for influential magazines that have such audience as their core readers; host high-quality, sophisticated podcast series) in collaboration with the university's journalism school.
 - Give expert advice to charities (e.g. help them formulate evidence-backed strategies).
 - Acquire the skills to engage and communicate effectively with policy-makers.
 - Defray the cost to serve as leaders of important local and international expert panels, task force, working groups.
- Disseminating information to the wider world is no longer viewed as odd or a luxury for academic centers and individual researchers. Evaluation for promotion in universities now often takes into account an individual's efforts to engage with society in addition to the three pillars of administration, teaching, and research. Kindling Initiative grants are aimed at funding and defraying expenses associated with these efforts which can take considerable time but are rarely recompensed.

IV. Eligibility

- Kindling Initiative Grants are given to the following two types of institutions and organizations that have U.S. not-for-profit tax-exempt status *or determined to have this equivalence if located outside the U.S.* These are:
 1. Universities (e.g. Harvard University) and academic research institutions (e.g. Max Planck Institutes).
 2. Professional, scholarly, or membership organizations governed by and focused on serving academics (e.g. Agriculture, Food & Human Values Society, History of Science Society).
 Tiny Beam Fund reserves the right to withdraw a grant offer if, upon further inquiry, the intended grant recipient cannot be determined as an entity to which it can provide grants per U.S. government rules.
- An application from a center, school, etc. within a university or from a professional organization must involve a senior administrator or officer (e.g. Director, President).
- For a team, not all team members need to be from academe. But the team lead or PI must:
 - be able to state the name of the entity that will receive the grant funds – an entity that belongs to one of the two types of institutions /organizations mentioned above
 - hold the PhD degree (or equivalent)
- A single academic researcher must:
 - be able to state the name of the entity that will receive the grant funds – an entity that belongs to one of the two types of institutions /organizations mentioned above
 - hold the PhD degree (or equivalent)

V. Grant amount. Award period. Payment schedule

- *There is no minimum and no maximum amount an applicant can request.* But only in exceptional cases will a grant provide over \$50,000 in 12 months. Requests for small grants (e.g. \$5,000) are welcomed.
- The key criterion Tiny Beam Fund uses to determine whether an amount requested is acceptable is to see if that amount is commensurate with the work to be supported and the scope and impact of the anticipated outcome. For example:
 - An academics-led organization wants to hold an online workshop for graduate students from different countries – \$5,000 is a fair amount to request, but not \$15,000.
 - A researcher recently completed a project and published three papers based on it. She wants to obtain funds for teaching buy-out so she can accept a request from a government agency that asks her to devise a plan that incorporates the project's findings into a new program and assist officials to launch it – \$15,000 is a reasonable amount to request, but not \$50,000.

- There are four grant periods to choose from:
 1. *"One and done"* (full grant amount provided as a single payment up front): For a single occurrence or paying for something once, such as renting a venue for an event, or hiring a graphic designer to produce a set of explainer videos to communicate research findings to a group of major funders.
 2. *Six months* (full grant amount provided as a single payment up front): To support activities or work carried out over a period of one to six months.
 3. *Twelve months* (grant amount paid in two installments – at the beginning and the end of the grant period): To support activities or work carried out over a period of 12 months.
 4. *Multi-year* (grant amount paid in multiple installments – at the beginning and the end of the grant period and at six-month intervals): To support activities or work carried out over 18 to 36 months.

VI. Deliverables and Obligations

- "One and done" grants:
 - 1. A written report (according to Tiny Beam Fund instructions). 2. A finance account of how the grant funds have been used. Both deliverables are due within 30 days after the completion of the work supported by the grant.
- Six-month grants:
 - A verbal online check-in: Three months after the grant start date.
 - 1. A written report (according to Tiny Beam Fund instructions). 2. A finance account of how the grant funds have been used. Both deliverables are due within 30 days after the completion of the work supported by the grant.
- Twelve-month grants:
 - Two verbal online check-ins: Three months and nine months after the grant start date.
 - A written progress report (according to Tiny Beam Fund instructions): Due six months after the grant start date.
 - 1. A written final report (according to Tiny Beam Fund instructions). 2. A finance account of how the grant funds have been used. Both deliverables are due at the end of the grant period.
- Multi-year grants:
 - Verbal online check-ins: At three-month intervals, except when a written report is submitted.
 - Written progress reports (according to Tiny Beam Fund instructions): Submitted at six-month intervals.
 - 1. A written final report (according to Tiny Beam Fund instructions). 2. A finance account of how the grant funds have been used. Both deliverables are due at the end of the grant period.

VII. Application process

- ***First step in the application process: Submit a Concept Note (see instructions below). Applications and inquiries are accepted year-round.***
- Response to a Concept Note submission will be given in 5 - 7 days. The response may include an invitation to submit a Full Proposal.
- Those invited to submit Full Proposals can send their proposals any time *within six months* of the invitation. But decisions to award grants are made only four times each year – typically in March, June, September, December.
- Successful applicants can expect to receive grant funds about 2 - 8 weeks after being notified of their success, depending on the amount of work required to determine whether it is possible for Tiny Beam Fund to provide funds to the recipient per U.S. government rules and regulations.

CONCEPT NOTE SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

A. Applicant's information

1. Name and full address of the institution or organization that will receive the grant funds if the application is successful. (Indicate specific center, department, etc. if appropriate.)
2. Name, contact information, job title/position of the person in the institution or organization responsible for submitting this application. Also indicate whether that person holds a PhD (or equivalent); if so, from which university and in what year.
3. If this is a team project or if this application involves one or more other person(s), for each additional person, provide name, contact information, professional qualification and/or job title.

B. Amount requested. Award period

1. The total requested amount (in US Dollars).
2. Select *one* award period: (i) One-and-done. (ii) Six months. (iii) 12 months. (iv) Multi-year – indicate the number of months between 18 and 36.

C. Purpose of the grant

1. Provide a short title or description of the work to be supported by the grant (no more than 30 words).
2. How do you intend to use the grant funds and what is the work or set of activities the grant funds will support? (If the funds are used to hire someone, explain what actually that person will be paid to do. For example, it is not enough to simply say "hire a person to help the Director".)
3. Why do you think the work, project, activities, or purpose that you want the grant to support fits well with one or more of the objectives of Kindling Initiative (described in sections II and III above)?
4. Finish this sentence in 50 words or less: "In a nutshell, I am applying for this grant because . . ."

D. Timing

1. Is this application time-sensitive? Is there a specific deadline that needs to be met? If so, please explain.
2. Are you prepared to accept grant funds that arrive *after* your deadline? If no deadline is involved, what is your preferred grant start date?

Send Inquiries and Concept Notes any time to: min@tinybeamfund.org



Kindling Initiative