

Catalyst Fund

Guidelines

[The McNulty Prize Catalyst Fund](#), developed and managed by the McNulty Foundation in partnership with the Aspen Institute, recognizes **early stage ventures with significant momentum**. At a **critical juncture** on their path to creating meaningful change, all Catalyst Fund candidates should exhibit **high potential** to deepen or widen their impact, and have critical need for support.

Eligibility

To qualify for the Catalyst Fund:

- You must be a Fellow of the Aspen Institute, with a venture (or Action Pledge) influenced by your Fellowship experience in some way
- Your venture (or Action Pledge) must be operational and poised to continue for the foreseeable future
- You must hold a leadership role, where you have taken decisive action to lead against a societal challenge
- Organizations must prioritize social impact, whether they are nonprofit, for-profit, or hybrid models, and be able to receive grants

If you would like to be considered for the Catalyst Fund, please contact your Fellowship Director. Candidates are invited to apply based on fellowship nominations.

Application Form

Invited candidates will be asked to complete the following application.

1. Narrative Statement

A. Problem & Approach (300 words maximum)

- What need or problem does your venture seek to address? What community or systems does this apply to?
- What is your venture's mission and why did it begin?
- What distinguishes your approach from others?

B. Impact (250 words maximum)

- Describe the impact of your venture on individuals and/or the community, including any key early metrics you track. How do you know the venture is embraced by those it serves?
- How are you poised to grow or deepen your impact, and how will you know when you are successful?

C. Critical Juncture (200 words maximum)

We want to understand the narrative and trajectory of your venture's journey, and what critical juncture your venture is at now and looking to the future.

- What milestones have you achieved in the last year, and what milestones do you anticipate in the next year?
- Critical need is a key criterion for the Catalyst Fund—how would funding and/or recognition make a difference for your venture at this specific stage in its development?
- How is the venture funded now, and how do you envision it will be sustained? What is your vision for the future?

2. Success to Significance (150 words maximum)

The Catalyst Fund, like the McNulty Prize, celebrates the boldness and impact of Aspen Institute Fellows using their expertise and platforms to address the world's toughest challenges.

- What is your title and role in the venture's achievements? How are you uniquely positioned to address this issue?
- In what way is the venture an outcome of your fellowship experience?

3. [Optional] Additional Materials

A. Supporting Documents

You are invited but not required to share existing materials that demonstrate your record of success.

Please upload as a single .doc or .pdf file, that is up to around 5 pages letter-sized (8.5 x 11 inches).

- Financial statements, annual reports or other reports to supporters or investors
- Press coverage and other recognition, photos or pamphlets
- Existing letters or testimonials in support of your venture
- Your CV

B. Short Video

Encouraged, not required—Youtube or Vimeo links accepted

- If you have one, please share an existing video that shows and tells about your venture.
- We are not looking for professional filmmaking but for a visual way to capture the power of the work.

The Catalyst Fund is administered in partnership with the Aspen Institute
If you are interested in being considered, please reach out to your Fellowship Director