

## **Announcement: FUNDING AVAILABLE**

### **Toxic Chemical Product Testing Fund -- Program Guidelines**

#### **For Nonprofit Campaigns to Test Products and/or Packaging for Toxic Chemicals**

**WHAT:** Up to \$25,000 awarded for campaign grants and \$5,000 for planning grants

**WHEN:** **Apply no later than July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020 to [testing@preventharm.org](mailto:testing@preventharm.org)**

**WHY:** To support activist campaigns to phase out the use of toxic chemicals by paying for the testing of products and/or packaging and related costs

Through generous foundation support, a dedicated fund has been created to pay for the chemical testing of products and packaging, provided that such analytical work is integrated into a strategic campaign to drive toxic substances out of the marketplace.

Funds will be awarded competitively in response to proposals received that meet the guidelines in this announcement. Either of two types of grants may be applied for:

- (1) Campaign grant – A campaign grant may cover testing-related costs, where a fully developed study design for testing is well integrated into a strategic campaign plan
- (2) Planning grant – A planning grant may cover the costs of consulting experts to assist in developing an appropriate study design and/or campaign plan

#### **Eligibility:**

- Grants are only intended to support nonprofit organizations engaged in organizing and advocacy. Unincorporated nonprofits may be considered if fiscal sponsorship can be satisfactorily arranged. Academic institutions are *not* eligible to directly receive a grant but may be partnered with a nonprofit to provide laboratory testing.
- Grants are only available for screening and testing for the presence of toxic chemicals in any type of consumer product or packaging, including food products and building materials. Environmental testing of air, soil, tap water, human bodies, or other media is *not* eligible for a grant under this chemical testing fund.
- For campaign grants, eligible expenses include direct costs for sample collection (including product purchase), sample shipping, laboratory fees and related analytical costs, expert consultants for data interpretation, and related direct costs.
- For planning grants, eligible expenses include consultants who are expert in study design for testing of products or packaging, or in strategic issue campaign planning. Related expenses, such as for meetings and materials, may also be included.
- Personnel and overhead costs may not exceed 10% of the grant budget. (This is a testing fund; you must have other means of covering your core operating expenses.)

#### **To Apply:**

For **Campaign Grants**, submit a three-page narrative proposal that describes:

- Which specific chemical classes will be tested for, in which products or packaging
- The qualifications, experience and analytical methods of the testing laboratory

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- The study design, including number and type of samples, sample collection method, pre-screening (if any), chain of custody assurance, and quality controls
- How the test results fit into a strategic campaign plan to reduce toxic chemical use
- How the data will be interpreted and communicated as part of a campaign
- How the campaign protects vulnerable populations, promotes environmental justice
- How the testing will break new ground and/or add to existing data in a unique way
- How the testing results will be used to leverage change to reduce toxics use
- Qualifications of the organization and personnel to carry out the testing project
- A grant budget that includes itemized expenses and a summary budget justification

For **Planning Grants**, submit a one-page narrative proposal that describes:

- Your chemical testing concept and how it fits into your toxics reduction strategy
- How you work to protect vulnerable groups and promote environmental justice
- Who will help you develop the study design, and their qualifications
- Who will help you integrate the testing into a campaign plan, and their qualifications
- The mission and history of the organization as it relates to reducing toxics use

*Additional related information may be provided as separate attachments or via web links.*

**Deadline:** *All proposals should be submitted by July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020*

- Submit your proposal to: [testing@preventharm.org](mailto:testing@preventharm.org)

### **Process:**

Each proposal will be reviewed and evaluated by a panel of nonprofit environmental health leaders and independent scientists according to how well it meets the requirements.

Added weight will be given to proposals that primarily address historically underserved populations who are disproportionately exposed and/or susceptible to toxic chemicals.

Applicants may be contacted to request additional information during the review process.

Funds will be awarded by September 11th for both campaign grants and planning grants.

A little more than \$100,000 is available for initial grant disbursement at that time.

Should additional funds be secured, organizations that successfully completed a planning grant will be given preferred consideration for future campaign grant awards in 2021.

Grants will typically be awarded for a one-year period.

A narrative and financial report must be submitted prior to the end of the grant term.

**Sponsors:** Three organizations developed and will administer the Toxic Chemical Product Testing Fund: Environmental Health Strategy Center, Ecology Center, and Toxic-Free Future. They are available on a very limited basis for informal consultation with potential grant applicants on study design, campaign planning, and data interpretation. If any of the above organizations also submit a proposal to the Toxic Chemical Product Testing Fund, they will recuse themselves from evaluating that proposal. Passport Foundation and Forsythia Foundation have provided the initial funding for this Chemical Testing Fund.