<https://esp.ethereum.foundation/applicants/project-grants/apply>

<https://esp.ethereum.foundation/applicants/project-grants> (FAQ)

1. Team profile\*

Briefly describe your organization. Provide links to previous work. How is your organization suited to the project's objectives, and how does it provide the necessary expertise?

Giveth is a donation platform built on Ethereum, rewarding and empowering those who give to projects, to society, and to the world. We are building a business model that provides value in the nonprofit sector and public goods. We were founded in 2016 and have a core team consisting of ~20 with 50+ Giveth contributors, including many well-known names in the space.

Our organization has incredible access to experts in the space. There are very few DAO experts with higher regard than our founder Griff Green and because of our long history and connections to rescuing TheDAO, Parity Multisig, and various other at-risk funds in Ethereum, we have a wide network of smart contract experts and general web3 experts across all disciplines.



Highlights of our most notable work:  
  
2016: Created the Minime token, used by every AragonDAO, Status and countless other projects, eventually it was forked and updated by Compound and now used by Uniswap, Gitcoin, ENS and many others.

2017: Launched our first and second versions of our Donation Application but ran into scaling issues (Cryptokitties)

2018: Organized the ScalingNow! Conference, bringing together the community focused on scaling Ethereum for the first time. Giveth made a bridge to Rinkeby to use as our own side chain, while also supporting the launch of xDAI.

2019: Spun out the Commons Stack to do applied DAO research, we created the Augmented Bonding Curve and Conviction Voting.

2020: Started the work on the Token Engineering Commons, focused on advancing token engineering as a public good. This is our first step towards making nonprofits regenerative economic systems.

2021: Launched our fourth generation donation platform and the GIVeconomy, which we are building on top of today.

2022: Launched GIVpower for decentralized curation of our platform and raised $1.2M for public goods focused projects and gave out over $700k in donor rewards.

2023: If funding permits, we hope to make Giveth the default place to go for collecting donations in crypto by adding NFTs, quadratic funding, and traceability features. We also intend to help successful projects on the platform evolve into impact DAOs governed by SBTs, which is the purpose of this grant.

### 

2. Brief project summary\*

Describe your project in a few sentences (you'll have the chance to go into more detail in the long form). If it's already underway, provide links to any existing published work.

Our community is focused on Building the Future of Giving using web3. Our intention is to support and reward the funding of public goods by creating open, transparent and free access to the revolutionary funding opportunities available within the Ethereum ecosystem.

On our DApp, 100% of all donations go directly to the project, and donors to verified projects are rewarded with a significant amount of GIV tokens in return, through a program we call GIVbacks. Making a project to raise funds with Giveth is simple and permissionless. To be part of the GIVbacks program and reward donors with GIV, projects must submit an application for our verification team to review to ensure they are truly a public goods project.

### Useful links

Website: <https://giveth.io/>

Discord: [Discord](https://discord.gg/Nj9zM9Dq)

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/Givethio>

Youtube:

[Evolving Nonprofits Regen Economics.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdIumUJZenw&list=PL_0VrY55uV1_sM2hl8L-MosZZiV_JVnIs&index=11)

[The Biggest Web3 Opportunity That No One Is Talking About](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DBGoX7DON54&ab_channel=EthereumFoundation)

Presentations

Deck: <https://giveth.io/deck/>

3. Describe the current status of the project and progress achieved so far\*

For example, do you have an MVP? Please describe its functionality and limitations and provide a link to it here.

We have more than an MVP; we have a fully functional donation platform, our 4th version.

Since our launch, we have verified over 1,700 projects, which have received over 15,000 donations with more than 4,200 unique donors. We have a verification team that dives deep into the projects that apply to be verified to ensure that donations go towards real public goods projects that make an impact.

On top of the donation platform, we have 2 core economic functions:

**GIVbacks** - The entry point to the GIVeconomy. Donors to verified public goods projects get GIV back for donating. It is essentially donation mining: just as Ethereum rewards stakers for securing the network, Giveth rewards donors for supporting public goods. This flips the script on tax deductible donation, creating a decentralized and borderless way of incentivizing donations.

**GIVpower** - Donors can lock their GIV tokens for GIVpower and use them to boost/curate projects on the platform. Projects with more GIVpower are ranked higher, and in turn, their donors are rewarded with more GIVbacks.

We're supporting many topical causes. One recent example is a Tweet that went viral where Giveth is supporting Iranians in web3: <https://twitter.com/ameensol/status/1607876425419476992>

The earthquake that has devastated Syria and Turkey are also running successful campaigns on Giveth:

<https://medium.com/giveth/ways-to-help-earthquake-victims-in-turkey-and-syria-on-giveth-155d7855164>

​​Some of our other most funded projects are causes supporting universal basic income: <https://giveth.io/project/expedition-grundeinkommen>

or support for Ukrainian: <https://giveth.io/project/unchain-fund>

And many more on <https://giveth.io/projects>

4. What problem(s) are being solved by within the scope of the grant?\*

What is the specific problems, research questions, or needs you are trying to address?

Our goal for this grant is to help successful nonprofits launch impact DAOs governed by soulbound tokens (SBTs). We will work with the DAO-curious projects on Giveth to help them build their own SBT distribution systems. We will hold weekly open office hours, 1-1 workshops, and structured courses to support nonprofits to launch, maintain and evolve their own DAOs.  
  
We believe that by using web3 technology we can enable new forms of coordination in the nonprofit space, giving a larger voice to volunteers, relevant experts and beneficiaries of nonprofit services that often take a back seat to the donors and leaders of nonprofits, who often have unchallenged control in one form or another. We believe that by giving these tools to nonprofits and letting them experiment and determine their own stakeholder systems that work for them, we will be able to derive patterns and best practices for decentralized bottom-up public goods creation.

5. Proposed tasks, roadmap and budget?\*

Provide a summary that includes a timeline of the expected work and an estimated budgetary breakdown.

Much of this grant will support the operation and maintenance of the Giveth platform as it is today. Our burn rate is about $90,000 USD a month, which we would argue is very impressive for a web3 project of our size. We have 20+ full time contributors and 20+ part time paid contributors and almost solely employ contributors from lower income countries. We have [monthly transparent reporting of our costs on our forum.](https://forum.giveth.io/search?q=%20Giveth%20Core%20Team%20Compensation%20order%3Alatest)

If this grant passes, we will kick off our impact DAO training courses. There are two pieces of work that will be done in parallel, one is the various technical improvements to the Giveth platform that will enable projects to be run by impact DAOs. We will enable DAOs to manage their project with their DAO (including donations, updates and project descriptions), as well as reward donors with SBTs automatically when they donate.

The technical improvements will be scoped out more fully based on the results of the other main deliverable: A 3-month, hands-on course for projects to launch their own SBT-governed DAO. Below is a projected timeline. All work will be recorded, documented and regularly marketed so it can be done by communities in the future without our direct involvement. All workshops will be well prepared, interactive Miro board group exercises and will include web3 experts from the field to lead every workshop like Griff Green, Livia & Tam from Commons Stack, Zakku from Coordinape, Michael Zargham & Jeff Emmett from Blockscience, and various other experienced web3 practitioners depending on their availability.

Below is an initial syllabus of the course. This is informed by years of applied research into building DAOs around public goods.

[Impact DAO training course](https://docs.google.com/document/d/14Gh-jyBo-qYAwwq5iHQxMkK2A7HYopXiKq7e84p11Iw/edit#heading=h.omph5gia0unf)

Month 0:

* We will lay the groundwork, write blog posts, Twitter threads, emails, build the course work, and all the things we need to do to ensure the greater community understands the project and that we have the coursework is a stable place before we start.

Month 1:

* We will measure interest from the active projects on the platform and choose times that will accommodate the most popular timezones. We will undoubtedly need to exclude one area of the world but will ensure they are included in future versions of this course.
* **Workshop #1 - Kick off & MVV**: We introduce the syllabus and learning opportunities to our first set of cohorts, as well as describe the purpose of a mission-vision-values documentation (MVV).
  + **Homework**: We create an initial MVV. Many projects may already have one, and it is fine if they just use what they already have.
* **Workshop #2 - Mapping the Territory**: Why? What value does mapping your stakeholders add to your community? What decisions can be valuable to distribute to your community and what decisions shouldn’t be? What tools do we have at our disposal for polycentric governance? We will introduce a variety of coordination mechanisms that can be used like Snapshot, Pairwise, Tokenlog, quadratic funding, delegation, elections, and more and show people how to map their decision-making process.
  + **Homework #1**: Go play with these various tools: setup Metamask, get gas money (which we will provide), create votes, dig deep and see what you like.
  + **Homework #**2: Create a list of decisions that make sense for your DAO to decide and a list of decisions that should stay in smaller teams.
* **Workshop #3 - Recognize Past Capital, Labor & Expertise**: We introduce the concept of giving voice to past contributors and experts who have helped the project.
  + **Homework**: Create a ranked list of contributors and a ranked list of experts, as well as a detailed list of capital contributions. Reach out to those lists and ask them to also provide a ranked list of relevant contributors that they know about.
* We hold open office hours twice a week every week.

Month 2:

* **Workshop #4 - Recognize Beneficiaries**: We hold a workshop focused on developing a strategy for giving voice to the beneficiaries of the charity (e.g., the people experiencing homelessness that benefit from the services of a shelter) as well as their community of experts and past contributors using web3 delegates (the human bridge), direct rep token allocations, surveys and other strategies that can be tailored to each projects unique needs.
  + **Homework**: Create a ranked list of beneficiaries. For each identified stakeholder in all the stakeholder groups (capital, labor, expertise, beneficiaries), describe the strategy for enabling them to participate.
* **Workshop #5 - Maintaining Engagement**: We hold a workshop on community engagement strategies. In this workshop, the various projects will mostly learn from each other about what has worked and what hasn’t.
  + **Homework**: For each stakeholder, describe a strategy for how they will be engaged and for a small sample set, propose these strategies directly to those stakeholders to verify if it will work for them.
* **Workshop #6 - Reward Systems:** We hold a workshop to overview the pros and cons of the various SBT distribution systems in web3 (e.g., Praise, Coordinape, Goveryn, POAPs, Otterspace, etc.) and discuss strategies for continually rewarding stakeholders, discussing requirements like POAP designs or Praise quantifications and complex topics like inflation and social second order effects.
  + **Homework**: Create an initial spec for your project's reputation system, including initial distribution and plan for continued distribution.
* **Closing the Group - Not Everyone is Ready for a DAO:** To start, these sessions will be open to the public; the homework will be graded, and if projects do not complete the class assignments, they will not be invited to the next section of the course. They can watch online as everything will be published there, and they can enroll in the next cohort. We will trim the group size at this stage to a manageable size.
* **1:1 Sessions - With Us & P2P:** The fundamentals have been sorted; the potential DAO founders have proven they are ready; now it is time for peer-to-peer feedback as well as sessions with our experts to help them review their design spec tailored for their unique set of stakeholders. Multiple sessions will be needed with each group. The goal will be to iterate on their DAO design to get it to a good place.
  + **Homework**: Create 5-minute (max.) video outlining how they will design their DAO to accompany their design spec.

Month 3

* **Presentations #1 - Initial Design:** Each project will present their impact DAO design to the group for live Q&A feedback.
  + **Homework**: Give detailed feedback to at least 5 other projects about how you would improve their impact DAO design.
* **1:1 Sessions - With Us & P2P:** The fundamentals have been sorted; the potential DAO founders have proven they are ready; now it is time for peer-to-peer feedback as well as sessions with our experts to help them review their design spec tailored for their unique set of stakeholders. Multiple sessions will be needed with each group. The goal will be to iterate on their DAO design to get it to a good place.
  + **Homework**: Finalize your design and create another 5-minute (max.) video but this one being a pitch video outlining how as an impact DAO they will be able to better accomplish their goals.
* **Presentations #2 - Final Design:** Each project will present their final impact DAO design to the group.
  + Homework: Make at least 3 social media posts (Twitter threads ideally) about your favorite 3 impact DAOs (that are not your own).
* **Quadratic Funding Round:** At the end of every course we will have a quadratic funding round for the impact DAOs that succeeded at graduating. Giveth will fundraise for this and ensure there is a large enough matching pool that it will incentivize the projects to complete the course.

We will work to develop the most popular of the impact DAOs’ choices for distributing SBTs and chosen DAO frameworks onto the Giveth platform.

6. Requested amount\*

Estimated grant amount. Ex: USD 50,000.

$250,000 USD worth of ETH or DAI

7. Why is your project important?\*

Why should solving these problems or addressing these needs be prioritized, what evidence do you have of importance or demand?

Giveth has been adding value to Ethereum for 5 years, funded solely by donations. Despite having a token, we do not have, and never have had, any investors and have never sold tokens.

We've been working to advance Ethereum in pursuit of our ultimate mission: To reward and empower those who give.

Our story starts in 2016 when TheDAO was hacked for over $50mil USD. We led the clean up effort, supporting DAO token holders in the Giveth Slack to get back their lost funds - an effort that continued until 2019.

At a Giveth retreat in 2017, our team - making up much of the White Hat Group - rescued over $200 million from vulnerable Parity Multisigs and coordinated with the Ethereum Foundation to put it safely back in the hands of its rightful owners.

In 2018, after @CryptoKitties went viral & clogged up the Ethereum network with transactions, we created *ScalingNOW!* & held a free Summit in BCN, hosting workshops, connecting researchers and aggregating and sharing all the information.

In 2018, we built Giveth TRACE, a free fundraising platform that pays the gas fees for nonprofits and allows donors to trace their donations. It was one of the earliest DApps on Ethereum to implement a scaling solution.

Several projects got their start on Giveth TRACE, including BrightID, Token Engineering Commons, Commons Stack and DAppNode.

The Giveth House has hosted hundreds of hackers and crypto folk since 2018, and no one has ever had to pay to stay there.

We recognized that one obstacle to scaling that was seemingly overlooked was the lack of useable opensource block explorers, so we started #OpenSourceBlockExplorersNOW to change that, by organizing a community of builders to take on the task. The result: Blockscout!

In 2018 we helped initialize the xDAI chain as one of the first 4 validators. We were also one of 7 nodes running the Rinkeby testnet. We also validated for several other public goods projects and were running Ethereum Miners to support the Giveth house expenses until the Merge.

In 2021, we launched Giveth.io, a free, streamlined donation application that intends to make it easy for nonprofits to start collecting crypto donations and get swiftly onboarded into the web3 space.

Giveth has been a fixture of the #blockchain4good community since we rose out of the ashes of The DAO 5 years ago... and we're not going anywhere. None of the work above received any grants from the Ethereum Foundation, although we were rewarded $24,000 from Optimism’s RPGF round, which was the largest grant we have ever received. Nearly all of our funds have always come from individual donors.

We've given it our all in Ethereum, and we're not stopping now. We hope you'll consider supporting us and our ambitious project!

8. How does your project differ from similar ones?\*

What other solutions are being worked on, what unique contribution will you make or advance will you provide beyond the state of the art?

There is no competition in funding public goods!

However, at our core right now, we are a donation platform so some similar projects include:

Gitcoin.co

Clr.fund

The Giving Block

We believe we complement these projects well as we are running our benefits for donating 24/7 as opposed to quarterly rounds, like Gitcoin and CLR.fund. We strive to educate nonprofits about web3 in the right way, supporting them in holding their own keys, whereas The Giving Block is partnered with Gemini, and their nonprofits don’t hold their own crypto.

9. Describe how your project will result in a public good.\*

Public goods are things like open source code, shared infrastructure, openly shared research, documentation, community building or other benefits provided to the community that are typically under-provided by the free market.

Giveth.io is a donation platform changing the way we fund public goods using web3 to create revolutionary opportunities for projects and donors alike. Benefits include no fees, no intermediary between projects and donors, no particular charity status needed, and rewards for donating. Thanks to Giveth, public goods can benefit from the equitability, traceability, security and full accessibility of web3 for their fundraising needs.

10. Will your results be open source?\*

If not, please explain why.

Yes, we are radically open source.

11. Describe the expected effects of your project proposal on the Ethereum ecosystem.\*

Please list the expected results of the project and explain how they will have a positive effect on the Ethereum ecosystem at large.

In the short run, our vision is to become a public goods building block: anyone who wants to donate to a good cause with some kind of Ethereum primitive can use our GIVbacks program to be rewarded for it. This effectively brings the public goods space in general closer to being sustainable by integrating this powerful primitive.

In the long run, our donation platform will become a launch pad for nonprofits to build their own impact DAOs and sustainable regen economies. We firmly believe that nonprofits create value and that they can create economies around that value that can be regenerative. We intend to support them in this effort, working with the Commons Stack to do the token engineering research required to create a repeatable pattern for these regen economies.

We have already had incredible success with the Token Engineering Commons, which is a public goods-focused DAO that has supported open source token engineering tools like cadCAD, numPy libraries and educational opportunities like the TE Academy. Research funding is its core work, and it has distributed over $350k USD to TE public goods projects, while its token price has actually beaten the price of ETH.   
  
But one thing we discovered from our work with the TEC is that with only one financialized token as the governance token, it is hard to have broad stakeholder governance, as experts and beneficiaries are hard to reward with this kind of token, and labor contributors need to sell the token to pay their bills. The DAOs tend to be capital controlled.

If this grant is funded we can turn the tide on these over financialized DAOs and bring true stakeholder governance to the DAO space. We will do this by first starting with SBTs to build a stakeholder mapping, before (if ever) bringing in a financialized token. This can help better balance the governance to include stakeholder voices from the relevant experts, contributors of labor and the beneficiaries.

12. Describe key risks and challenges to your project.\*

What are the critical risks, relating to both project implementation and achieving expected impacts?

The bear market makes for fewer crypto donations, and an extended bear market c an hurt the adoption of crypto and nonprofits' interest in trying to raise funds in this space.

Our end goal is to support nonprofits into launching their own economy, bad regulatory decisions could make that more difficult for some jurisdictions.

Giveth has sustained itself mainly through donations, and to mitigate the risks mentioned above we have adopted several strategies to maintain our own financial stability:

Opt-in donations - recently we added a feature for donations where donors can choose to also donate up to 20% of their donation to Giveth. We are noticing that the majority of donors opt in and donate 5% of their donation directly to us!

General Magic - To prepare for the bear, we spun out our own development studio: [General Magic](https://www.generalmagic.io/). To reduce our spend, we can outsource our talent to other teams and make a profit, allowing us to scale to meet our demand.

Commons Stack - Another project we spun out of Giveth is [Commons Stack](https://commonsstack.org/), which is making outstanding break-throughs in regenerative economies especially in the Refi sector. They have their own funding streams (mostly through grants) and also pay us for development services.

Grants - On top of the above, we are working on several grants with mission-aligned DAOs and L1s in order to onboard them on Giveth including Optimism, Celo, etc.

Some other grant ideas that are shaping up and receiving positive attention is offering our whitelabel DApp to several “web2.0” nonprofits including The World Food Program and Unicef.

Donations, grants, and partnerships can help us overcome unstable market conditions, but our true long term sustainability will come from supporting nonprofits in launching their own microeconomies. We are not ready for that in 2023, however.   
  
Giveth is here to stay. We have been around since 2016 and will continue to fight to ensure nonprofits can be rewarded fairly for the value they create in 2036.

13. What are your plans after the grant is completed?\*

We want to use the grant money to onboard nonprofits into web3. Our goal is to educate nonprofits to build their own DAOs, launch their own SBTs to manage their donations as a DAO in a decentralized way using Ethereum.

We have more DAO experience than any other public goods project in the space (as described in an earlier question covering our historical track record in the community).

Giveth is building a whole new industry around the nonprofit space. We are currently a donation platform, but we are confident that a major part of the Future of Giving will be investing. We will turn nonprofits into impact DAOs, and eventually full fledged regen economies.

Our mission is to evolve the nonprofit space by building resilient regenerative economies powered by their community and less dependent on donations or public funding. It is an approach that empowers communities to develop efficient bottom-up managing structures, turning donors into shareholders of public goods and getting rewarded while donating or investing.

As mentioned above, public goods is a $35 trillion USD industry that Giveth is trying to disrupt. We are accelerating the transformation of nonprofits and public goods into web3 projects and helping them launch their own economies backed by GIV, all of which is built on Ethereum and helps to connect and bring more public goods into the ecosystem.

If you want to see what we are working towards this year and after, these two posts are all you need to read:

2023:

<https://medium.com/giveth/2023-giveth-looking-forward-c6c66fb82c3e>

Long Term Vision: <https://medium.com/giveth/evolving-nonprofits-into-regen-economies-f8282f97f8d3>

14. If you didn't work on this project, what would you work on instead?\*

Nothing - we are 100% dedicated to Giveth. We will try to find other sources of funding to execute on this project, while in the meantime we work on other parts of Giveth that have the potential to have a faster ROI, like adding NFT fundraising and quadratic fundraising to the platform.

Have you applied for or received other funding?\*

We are applying for grants across the space and recently received 10k to add Polygon to our donation application.

15. Anything else you'd like to share?

Please consider supporting us. We have contributed so much more than $250k USD to the Ethereum ecosystem and have never received any grants for doing so. This is, however, not a retroactive grant; we will put this funding to work and are happy to create a milestone funding approach. If we receive this grant, we can greatly speed up the use of soulbound tokens in DAOs and get a major step closer to making it easy for any nonprofit to start up their own regen economy.

16. Did anyone recommend that you contact Ecosystem Support?

Please write the name of the person who recommended that you apply.

<https://t.me/marcusdotam>