
Kinship Earth Flow Funding Playbook

Preface: Reimagining How Resources Flow

KINSHIP EARTH

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At Kinship Earth, our mission is to practice and expand Flow Funding and Bioregional Flow Funding — transforming how money moves in service to life. We are here to help bioregional organizing groups create their own Flow Funds, and to educate wealth holders, foundations, and family offices to allocate a portion of their resources in this way — because this model works, and because the systems of traditional philanthropy no longer serve the moment we are in.

For decades, philanthropy has been centralized, bureaucratic, and extractive. Decision-making power has rested far from the communities most affected by the challenges being addressed. Grant applications and reporting requirements often uphold inequity and gatekeeping, reinforcing dependency rather than autonomy. As a result, those closest to the land, the people, and the solutions are too often left out of the flow of resources — while those with wealth are distanced from the real impact their giving could have.

Flow Funding was created by Marion Rockefeller Weber to offer another way. Instead of concentrating control, it entrusts decision-making to people already doing the work on the ground — community leaders, artists, healers, educators, and organizers. Flow Funding is rooted in trust, relationship, and direct impact. It recognizes that generosity, like water, must move freely to nourish what is alive and emergent.

Through Bioregional Flow Funding, Kinship Earth carries this approach forward — guiding local groups to design their own place-based funding ecosystems that channel wealth to regenerative efforts within their regions: restoring land and water, uplifting grassroots leadership, and strengthening the fabric of community and culture.

Our work also honors the legacy of Susan Davis Moora, who pioneered collaborative models for social innovation through the KINS Networks — bringing together circles of changemakers to advance environmental and social healing. Today, we carry forward the spirit of both Marion and Susan by evolving these principles into living systems for systemic healing and shared stewardship of Earth.

We believe this is a time to re-design not only how money moves, but why — to heal the disconnect between wealth and life, to shift from charity to kinship, and to cultivate regenerative economies rooted in trust, participation, and care.

The resources that follow were created to support bioregional communities, networks, and organizing groups who are ready to begin this journey — to create their own Flow Funding Foundations, tap into local and aligned global wealth, and flow resources in service of their communities, ecosystems, and shared future.

Together, we are building a new culture of giving — one that heals systems, uplifts communities, and allows generosity to flow where it's needed most.

How to Use These Resources

The following resources have been developed and refined through Kinship Earth's experience practicing Flow Funding and Bioregional Flow Funding. They are designed to help bioregional organizing groups, networks, and communities create their own Flow Funds, adapt the model to their local context, and begin channeling resources with trust and intention.

Each document can be adapted to meet the cultural, legal, and ecological realities of your place. We encourage you to see these not as rigid templates, but as living tools to help your group establish clarity, accountability, and flow.

Kinship Earth's Flow Funding Templated Resources Included

Made available to support local bioregionally-based communities interested in creating their own unique Flow Funding Foundations

- [Flow Funder Role & Responsibilities Doc](#)
- [Core Agreements & Flow Funding Practices](#)
- [Criteria for Identifying and Selecting Flow Funders](#)
- Flow Funder [Onboarding Form](#)
- Flow Funder [Reporting Form](#)
- [Flow Funder x Kinship Earth Agreement](#)
- [How to Tell A Flow Funding Story | A Guide to Support our Flow Funders](#)
- [Community of Practice Framework](#)
- [What if you don't have 501c3 status?](#)

- [Templated Fiscal Sponsor Agreement](#)
 - [Insights re: deploying funds domestically in the US vs. internationally](#)
 - [Flow Funding given from an individual to another individual](#)
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Flow Funder Role & Responsibilities

[Flow Funder Role & Responsibilities Doc](#)

An overview of our interpretation of what it means to serve as a Flow Funder — the mindset, values, and practices that define the role. This document helps potential Flow Funders understand the purpose of the program, expectations of participation, and the deeper invitation to serve as a bridge between resources and community needs.

Core Agreements & Flow Funding Practices

[Core Agreements & Flow Funding Practices](#)

Our foundational guide articulating the principles and agreements that uphold trust-based giving. This includes guidance on transparency, relational ethics, reciprocity, and how to navigate decision-making in alignment with Flow Funding's spirit of generosity and care.

Criteria for Identifying and Selecting Flow Funders

[Criteria for Identifying and Selecting Flow Funders](#)

A tool to help bioregional groups determine who might be best suited to serve as Flow Funders — outlining qualities such as integrity, relational awareness, cultural sensitivity, and grounded experience in community work.

Flow Funder Onboarding Form / Questions

[Onboarding Form / Questions](#)

A form to support thoughtful onboarding and orientation for new Flow Funders — helping them reflect on their motivations, networks, areas of focus, and how their lived experience connects to the needs of their bioregion.

Flow Funder Reporting Form

[Reporting Form](#)

A reporting template that keeps the storytelling and learning process simple and meaningful. It focuses on narrative impact — the stories of transformation, relationships built, and lessons learned — rather than bureaucratic metrics.

Flow Funder x Kinship Earth Agreement

[Flow Funder x Kinship Earth Agreement](#)

A model agreement outlining the relationship between a Flow Funder and Kinship Earth (or your own local Flow Fund Foundation). It includes guidance for offering Flow Funders an honorarium to acknowledge their time and service, with flexibility for individual or group-based giving.

How to Tell a Flow Funding Story | A Guide to Support Our Flow Funders

[How to Tell A Flow Funding Story | A Guide to Support our Flow Funders](#)

A storytelling guide to help Flow Funders articulate and share the impact of their giving — focusing on authenticity, humility, and the power of lived experience. Includes prompts, examples, and tips for communicating stories of impact to donors, communities, and peers.

Community of Practice Framework

[Community of Practice Framework](#)

An outline for cultivating a learning community among Flow Funders and organizers — fostering peer support, collective reflection, and shared wisdom across regions. This framework encourages circles of mutual learning where stories, challenges, and insights can flow freely.

What If You Don't Have 501(c)(3) Status? (Fiscal Sponsorship as an Option)

[If you don't have 501c3 status](#)

An overview of fiscal sponsorship as a pathway for bioregional groups or individuals to receive and deploy funds responsibly without needing to establish a new nonprofit entity.

Templated Fiscal Sponsor Agreement

Templated Fiscal Sponsor Agreement

A ready-to-adapt agreement that clarifies the relationship between a fiscal sponsor and a sponsored Flow Fund or initiative — outlining responsibilities, fund management, and reporting expectations.

Insights: Deploying Funds Domestically vs. Internationally

A practical guide sharing insights from Kinship Earth’s experience funding projects across borders — including key considerations for compliance, logistics, cultural sensitivity, and trust-building.

Flow Funding Between Individuals

Flow Funding given from an individual to another individual

Guidance for situations where Flow Funds are deployed directly from one individual to another — outside of nonprofit structures — with considerations for trust, transparency, documentation, and tax implications.

An Invitation

These materials are offered in the spirit of collaboration, learning, and mutual empowerment. As you explore and adapt them, we invite you to share your insights, stories, and adaptations with us — so that, together, we can strengthen the global constellation of Bioregional Flow Funds and refine this living system for the good of all life.