

TrustWeave Funding Support Plan

Created: 2025

Status: Planning

Organization: Geoknoesis LLC

Executive Summary

This document outlines the strategy for enabling funding support for TrustWeave on GitHub. By configuring multiple funding platforms, we can provide supporters with various options to contribute financially to the project's development and maintenance.

Funding Strategy

Primary Goals

- 1. Support Ongoing Development** - Enable community members to financially support TrustWeave development
- 2. Multiple Options** - Provide various funding platforms to accommodate different preferences
- 3. Transparency** - Clear communication about how funds will be used
- 4. Sustainability** - Build a sustainable funding model for long-term project health

Recommended Funding Platforms

Based on TrustWeave's open-source nature and target audience, we recommend the following platforms:

Tier 1: Essential (Implement First)

- GitHub Sponsors** - Native GitHub integration, low friction
- Open Collective** - Transparent financial management, good for organizations
- Buy Me a Coffee** - Simple, one-time donations

Tier 2: Additional Options (Consider Later)

- Patreon** - Recurring subscriptions, good for regular supporters
- Ko-fi** - Alternative to Buy Me a Coffee
- Custom URLs** - Link to commercial licensing page

Platform Selection Rationale

GitHub Sponsors (Recommended)

Why:

- Native GitHub integration (appears in repository sidebar)

- Low friction for developers already on GitHub
- Supports both one-time and recurring donations
- No additional account setup required for GitHub users

Setup:

1. Enable GitHub Sponsors for organization/account
2. Create sponsor tiers (e.g., \$5, \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100/month)
3. Add organization username to FUNDING.yml

Best For: Developers, individual contributors

Open Collective (Recommended)

Why:

- Transparent financial management (public expense reports)
- Good for organizational sponsors
- Supports both one-time and recurring contributions
- Tax-deductible options available

Setup:

1. Create Open Collective organization
2. Set up fiscal host (or self-host)
3. Configure tiers and benefits
4. Add organization name to FUNDING.yml

Best For: Companies, organizations, enterprise sponsors

Buy Me a Coffee (Recommended)

Why:

- Simple, one-time donation model
- Low barrier to entry
- Good for casual supporters
- Easy to set up

Setup:

1. Create Buy Me a Coffee account
2. Set up profile page
3. Add username to FUNDING.yml

Best For: Casual supporters, one-time contributors

Patreon (Optional)

Why:

- Recurring subscription model
- Good for dedicated supporters
- Can offer exclusive content/benefits

Considerations:

- Requires content creation (updates, exclusive posts)
- More maintenance overhead
- Best for projects with established community

Best For: Long-term supporters who want exclusive content

Ko-fi (Optional)

Why:

- Alternative to Buy Me a Coffee
- Supports both one-time and recurring
- Lower fees than some platforms

Best For: Alternative to Buy Me a Coffee

Custom URLs (Recommended)

Why:

- Link to commercial licensing page
- Direct enterprise sales channel
- Professional appearance

Setup:

- Add link to <https://geoknoesis.com/licensing> or similar
- Can include multiple custom URLs

Best For: Enterprise customers, commercial licensing inquiries

Implementation Plan

Phase 1: Initial Setup (Week 1)

Actions:

1. Create FUNDING.yml file in [.github/](#) directory
2. Set up GitHub Sponsors account
3. Create Open Collective organization
4. Set up Buy Me a Coffee account

5. Add funding information to README.md

FUNDING.yml Configuration:

```
github: # Add GitHub Sponsors username(s)
open_collective: # Add Open Collective organization name
buy_me_a_coffee: # Add Buy Me a Coffee username
custom: # Add custom URLs (e.g., commercial licensing page)
```

Phase 2: Platform Configuration (Week 2)

GitHub Sponsors:

- Create sponsor tiers
- Write tier descriptions
- Set up payment methods
- Add sponsor benefits (e.g., name in README, early access)

Open Collective:

- Set up organization profile
- Configure fiscal host
- Create contribution tiers
- Set up expense policies
- Add transparency goals

Buy Me a Coffee:

- Create profile page
- Add project description
- Set up payment methods
- Customize thank you messages

Phase 3: Documentation & Communication (Week 3)

Documentation Updates:

- Add funding section to README.md
- Create FUNDING.md with detailed information
- Update CONTRIBUTING.md to mention funding
- Add funding badge to README (optional)

Communication:

- Announce funding support in release notes
- Post on social media about funding options

- Update website with funding information
- Email existing contributors about funding

Phase 4: Ongoing Management (Ongoing)

Monthly Tasks:

- Review funding contributions
- Update sponsor acknowledgments (if applicable)
- Share financial transparency reports (Open Collective)
- Thank new sponsors

Quarterly Tasks:

- Review and adjust funding tiers
- Analyze funding trends
- Update funding strategy based on feedback

Funding Usage Guidelines

How Funds Will Be Used

Primary Uses:

1. **Development** - Core feature development, bug fixes
2. **Infrastructure** - CI/CD, hosting, tooling
3. **Documentation** - Improving docs, tutorials, examples
4. **Community** - Supporting contributors, community events
5. **Maintenance** - Dependency updates, security patches

Transparency:

- Publish quarterly reports on Open Collective
- Acknowledge major sponsors in README (with permission)
- Use funds transparently and responsibly

Sponsor Benefits (Optional)

Tier Suggestions:

- **Supporter (\$5/month)** - Name in contributors list
- **Sponsor (\$25/month)** - Name in README sponsors section
- **Patron (\$50/month)** - Early access to features, priority support
- **Enterprise (\$100+/month)** - Direct communication channel, custom support

Note: Benefits should be clearly communicated and manageable at scale.

Legal & Tax Considerations

Important Notes:

- Consult with legal/tax advisor before accepting funds
- Understand tax implications for organization
- Consider fiscal host for Open Collective (handles tax issues)
- Ensure compliance with local regulations

Recommendations:

- Use Open Collective fiscal host for automatic tax handling
- Keep detailed records of all contributions
- Consult with accountant for tax implications
- Consider forming 501(c)(3) if pursuing non-profit status

Success Metrics

Track:

- Number of sponsors per platform
- Total monthly recurring revenue
- One-time donation frequency
- Sponsor retention rate
- Conversion rate (users → sponsors)

Goals (6 Months):

- 10+ GitHub Sponsors
- \$500+ monthly recurring revenue
- 5+ Open Collective contributors
- Active funding community

Alternative Funding Models

Commercial Licensing

- Primary revenue source for Geoknoesis LLC
- Link from FUNDING.yml to licensing page
- Clear separation: open source (AGPL) vs. commercial

Professional Services

- Implementation consulting
- Custom plugin development
- Training and workshops
- Support contracts

Future SaaS Platform

- Managed hosting services
- Enterprise features
- Premium support tiers

Next Steps

Immediate Actions:

1. Create FUNDING.yml file
2. Review and approve funding strategy
3. Set up GitHub Sponsors account
4. Create Open Collective organization
5. Set up Buy Me a Coffee account
6. Add funding information to README

This Week:

- Complete platform setup
- Configure FUNDING.yml with actual usernames
- Add funding section to README.md

This Month:

- Launch funding support
- Announce to community
- Monitor initial response

Resources

- [GitHub Sponsors Documentation](#)
- [Open Collective Guide](#)
- [Buy Me a Coffee Setup](#)
- [Open Source Funding Guide](#)

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