Research Grant
Frequently Asked Questions
Advancing Research and Investment Standards for Gender Equity (ARISE)

Question not answered here?

Email Project Manager Kendahl Tyburski or
review the recording and presentation from the Open House.

ANDE's Catalyst Fund - or regranting mechanism - will be used to support women's rights organizations and other CSOs as translators to conduct on-the-ground investment research in line with the best practices developed. The ARISE Consortium calls for a standardized approach to research that is transparent, participatory, aware of and responsive to unequal power dynamics, and driven by expertise on gender equality and local context.

The Consortium will determine the topics for additional research-based, in part considering topics that are considered to be 1) under-researched; 2) impactful for women, girls, and non-binary individuals in the Global South; and 3) likely to be utilized by the GLI field.

I. Eligibility

Does my organization have to be an ANDE Member to apply?
No, your organization does not need to be an ANDE Member to apply. The application is open to both ANDE Members and non-Members.

Do we need prior engagement with the Consortium (ANDE, 2X Global, & Criterion) to apply?
No, no prior engagement with ANDE, 2X Global, or Criterion Institute is necessary.

Can ARISE funding be used by for-profit organizations?
Unfortunately, no. ARISE funding can only be used for non-profit organizations.

What if my organization is based in a country (i.e. Cambodia) where there are no legal entities such as non-profits?

We understand that different countries have different legal entities; as long as your organization functions as a non-profit, you are eligible.

In the specific case of Cambodia, there are non-profit entities that cannot earn money but they can take the grant and use the money. There is no such thing as a social enterprise. If you are a for-profit organization, you are unfortunately ineligible for the grant.

What if my organization has a nonprofit and a for-profit side? Can we still apply?

As long as the funding would go 100% to the non-profit side, and none to the for-profit side, the non-profit side of the organization is eligible.

Does my organization have to fit the definition of a women's rights organization as provided?

No, organizations applying for the fund can include any organization that promotes feminist ideals, leads societal change and aims to eliminate gender-based discrimination. The definition can be found in the request for proposals.

Is there a geographic focus for this fund? Is a multi-country or single-country focus preferable?

There is no geographic requirement for this project; however, locally-led organizations operating in the Global South will be prioritized. We are looking for locally-informed research, which means that a single-country focus would be ideal to center the research on the local community.

Can an organization submit more than one proposal?

Yes, organizations may submit more than one proposal with a separate respective research question through the application, but we will most likely only choose one.

III. Use of Funds

What kind of budget line items are allowed?

While there are no overt restrictions on budget line items, we expect that all proposed budgets will be well thought-out, with reasonable amounts under each line item to carry out the project reasonably and efficiently. Previous winning proposals have included budget items for administration and program management, case studies, dissemination and marketing, research and design, technology development, travel for workshops, and more.

Indirect costs or overhead may **not** be included in the overall budget.

Cost-sharing is permitted. Proposals can request funding for a subset of a project, not a standalone project. If the funding request is for an entire budget, please indicate that. If not, include the total projected cost of the project and indicate which portion this grant would support. A list of project funders, including prospective and committed, is required.

In the list of project funding, can we budget for items like contracting TA providers and accounting support?

Yes, however, if the funding required exceeds $50,000 total note that any additional funding required to make this project successful should be indicated in your application.

What does it mean when you ask for information about other project funders for our proposal?

If the funding request is for the entire budget, please indicate. If not, include the total projected cost of the project and indicate which portion this grant would support. For example, you could list the total budget as $5 million, but the total requested from this fund is $50,000. Proposals facing this circumstance will be evaluated based on their ability to implement the project with or without additional funding.

Do we need to have identified all potential partner organizations in the concept note or can some be identified later (i.e. indicate number and type, but specific organizations or firms are still being finalized)?

Ideally, we would like to have a sense of prospective and confirmed partners at this stage especially given our preference for research led by or in partnership with locally-headquartered organizations, however, we understand how things might change between the concept note and proposal.

Can some of the funding be used for business or partner development?

Applications for this opportunity will be evaluated for efficiency in the sense of how these funds are being used to finance a research project as well as disseminate learnings from that research. Any line item needs to support the objectives of the fund.

Can the funds be used to support ongoing work?

Yes, if the project is ongoing yet fits the description we are looking for, you can apply to fund ongoing work. It does not necessarily have to be a new project.

What is the maximum percentage of services that can be contracted?

Contracting is allowable with no percentage maximum. However, note that the funding through ARISE cannot be used for loan guarantees, debt, equity, etc. It is intended as grant capital to fund research alone.

How will financing and financial reporting work?

50% of funding will be provided up front, with the remaining 50% to be reimbursed upon completion of deliverables and financial reports demonstrating the budget has been spent down. There will be a midterm financial report, as well as a final financial report and midterm report. Note that further reports may be requested depending on the due diligence process conducted on selected applicants.

IV. Metrics, Evaluation, and Learning

What types of outcomes is the fund looking for? What does successful completion of the project look like?

The objective of the fund is to conduct innovative research that can be shared with the GLI field and practitioners. Your proposal should include a clear research question, methodology, and output.

While this project does not include rigorous monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) components, ANDE may ask grantees to participate in a post-grant reflection and learning call.

II. Guidelines to Consider

Is there a specific timeframe within which the project needs to be completed?

The project must begin in August 2023 when the grants are awarded and must last between 6 to 9 months.

Could you share the type of organization you are looking to fund?

This regranting program supports women's rights organizations in collecting and analyzing data that speak to the investment community and will help build connections with local investors. It will equip selected organizations with the ability to translate their insights about the needs and opportunities in their communities into investment decision-making processes. It will also help build the organizations' connections to investors through convening spaces, design sessions, and individual introductions.

The Consortium has identified several qualities that tend to make some women's rights organizations better suited than others for the translation role–and therefore better qualified as grant recipients. Based on this, we intend to identify applicants who are:

- Early adopters and innovators (as opposed to "laggards" who need to see others (or even a critical mass) doing something differently to adopt that strategy or behavior);
- Open to change in their world;
- Oriented to take risks; and,
- Open to thinking about systems (beyond tactics).

What kind of support will my organization get from ANDE?

Partners will receive programmatic as well as monitoring, evaluation, and learning assistance from ANDE, structured around monthly check-in calls and in advance of reporting deadlines.

Who is the target audience of the research?

The target audience of the research includes financial institutions. Types of financial institutions include, but are not limited to: banks; credit unions; community development financial institutions; government lenders; and specialized lenders. Note that as a source of financing and innovation, private philanthropy can be considered a financial institution within the development landscape.