Guidelines - Call for Proposals – Empowering for Freedom

1. About Rising Tide Foundation

Rising Tide Foundation supports cancer research, social/educational, and libertarian programs with a strong commitment to the empowerment and freedom of the individual. Our goal is to maximize individual potential, build competencies through education, create opportunities and advance the quality of life of cancer patients so that more people can flourish in life on their own terms.

We are advancing studies that deliver results for cancer patients and we support projects that increase freedom in society and empower individuals to develop the skills necessary to seize opportunities to live an independent life and be the protagonist of their life story.

For more information visit: www.risingtide-foundation.org

2. Call for Proposals: “Empowering for Freedom”

To further strengthen the impact of our funding, we are exploring the concept of “Empowering for Freedom” and are looking to support the best projects in this space. We are seeking projects that show entrepreneurial approaches to social issues that advance the freedom of individuals and society.

Theory of Change:

We believe that Freedom is the most important explanatory factor driving and shaping human wellbeing around the world. Freedom of individuals can be advanced by:

- Reducing the constraints (e.g. governments, societal norms, prejudices) and promoting the freedom and autonomy of the individual (e.g. through market access, fair competition, etc.) or
- Empowering and inspiring individuals to seize opportunities freely (examples include but are not limited to enhancing economic independence, expanding networks of productivity)

We believe that impact driven, bottom-up entrepreneurial initiatives (whether non-profit or for-profit) represent a largely untapped source of opportunity to advance the freedom of individuals and advance the general prosperity of society.

Focus & Objective:

To surface existing and planned initiatives that empower individual freedom in one of its dimensions and hence advance the wellbeing of individuals in the long-term. Application areas could be, for example, personal liberty, freedom of speech, improved property rights, economic independence, less regulated entrepreneurship, innovation in education, private sector solutions to public issues, etc. We are committed to indentifying and funding the most innovative, disruptive and impactful projects worldwide.
3. Project Eligibility

Approaches:

In order to qualify for selection, projects need to advance the freedom of the individual through one of the following two approaches:

1. Directly enhance the freedom of individuals along at least one of its dimensions by:
   - reducing obstacles, barriers, constraints or interference from others to the freedom of the individual through innovative approaches (not including general awareness, publication or policy work), or
   - enabling individuals, that may otherwise not have the chance, to access transformational interventions (non-governmental) and programs that empower them to live an independent, sustainable and self-determined life (not including scholarships).

2. Design, pilot or implement bottom-up alternatives to existing government solutions to societal issues organized as decentralized networks, private sector organizations, NGOs etc.

Types:

The projects should further fall into one of the following two types of projects:

1. Funding of training & incubation in some form of entrepreneurship: Projects by incubators, accelerators or training institutions that provide skills, training and funding access to individuals, communities, non-/for-profit organizations.

2. Direct project funding: Grant funding will be provided to non-profit or hybrid organizations for testing, implementation or scale up of their focus activities.

The following types of projects are excluded from funding: projects run by individuals; projects run by organizations with a political or religious mission; infrastructure; humanitarian aid; conferences and travel.

Geographic focus:

Preference is given to regions where the political infrastructure is robust enough to allow free market principles to be promoted, and the rule of law can realistically be expanded and grow.

4. Funding

RTF welcomes grants from 50’000 USD up to 1 Million USD over no more than 5 years. RTF does not give unrestricted funding nor do we fund significant overhead.
5. **How to apply**

Applicants are requested to submit a short Letter of Intent (LOI) by either one of the deadlines below through this link on Proposal Central:

https://proposalcentral.altum.com/ProposalGI.asp?SectionID=7284&ProposalID=-1

LOIs that are longer than the character restrictions will not be considered. On the basis of the LOI, the applicant may be invited to submit a full proposal. The decision on funding will be based on the full proposal, and taken by the Foundation’s Board in August 2019 (for the April LOI deadline) and December 2019 (for the August LOI deadline).

**Deadlines for LOIs:**

30th of April 2019  
12th of August 2019

**Conference calls**

If you have questions, please join one of our conference calls that will take place in the week of the 18th of March 2019. Please send an email with your questions to callforproposals@risingtide.ch to receive the call details and register for the call.

6. **Additional Information**

Additional information can be found on the Rising Tide Foundation’s website: http://www.risingtide-foundation.org/call-for-proposals