

One Sky Giving Circle Grant Application
2018 Grant Focus: Empowerment of Women & Girls:
Legal, Equal & Constitutional Rights (Civic Engagement)

*Please complete and return this application by **Friday, March 23, 2018**. Brevity and bullet points welcome! Feel free to share additional information you believe is relevant in the Notes section. Thank you.*

Legal Name of Organization: Rise Up
Website URL: www.riseuptogether.org
Headquarters Location: Oakland, CA
Name and Title of Primary Contact:
Denise Dunning, Founder & Executive Director
Email and Phone Number of Primary Contact:
ddunning@riseuptogether.org, (510)285-5706
Application Submission Date: Friday, March 23, 2018

Organizational Overview:

Organization Description: (please provide a very brief description of your organization – this can be a few sentences or a single short paragraph)

Rise Up activates women and girls to transform their lives, families and communities by investing in local solutions, strengthening leadership, and building movements. Since 2009, Rise Up's powerful network of over 500 leaders has directly benefited 7 million girls, youth, and women, advocating for over 100 laws and policies impacting 115 million people in Africa, Latin America, South Asia, and the US. Rise Up is based at the Public Health Institute (PHI), a leader in global health and development for over 50 years.

Mission Statement:

Rise Up activates women and girls to transform their lives, families and communities for a more just and equitable world.

Organizational Budget: US \$2,794,000

Program Budget: If your organization has a specific program focused on civic engagement, please list the name and budget for that program.

- Program name: Let Girls Lead Initiative, Guatemala
- Program budget: US \$200,000

Staffing: List the locations where you operate, and the number of staff in each location (you do not need to list staff names or titles)

Rise Up is based in the US and works in 17 countries:
United States (11 staff), Guatemala (2 staff), Honduras (2 staff), Mexico (1 staff), El Salvador, Nicaragua, Brazil, Nigeria (1 staff), South Africa, Malawi (2 staff), Ethiopia, Kenya (1 staff), Uganda, Liberia (1 staff), Rwanda, India (1 staff), Pakistan

Annual Report: Does your organization produce an annual report? Yes No

If the annual report is available on your website please add a link here or attach a copy to this form.

We are developing an Annual Report for 2018, but did not produce one for 2017. See our 2017 Impacts Infographic attached at the end of the application.

Organizational Activities: (check all that apply)

Direct Service

Advocacy

Capacity Building (training, etc.)

Awareness Building

Convening

Research and Publications

Membership Organization

Other(s):

Organizational Strategy

1. Discuss your organization's "theory of change" (how does your work contribute to change in the world) including the following:
 - a. What are your long-term organizational goals?
 - b. How does your current approach (advocacy, policy, impact legislation, research, direct service, etc.) help you achieve these goals?
 - c. Within the broad topic of 'civic engagement' discuss why your organization focuses in a particular area or areas (e.g. leadership training, voting rights, fair elections, etc.). In other words, why do you feel intervention in these areas is critical to positive change?

Rise Up's theory of change leverages a master trainer methodology to create exponential change. We use a highly competitive selection process to identify girl leaders and civil society leaders who have both a demonstrated track record and strong potential to achieve large scale change. Rise Up has created a bilingual [award-winning curriculum](#) and field-tested training methodology that enables leaders to strengthen their capacity to engage more fully in civil society process to create change for girls and women. Rise Up leaders go on to train other leaders within their communities and countries and apply their new knowledge to launching their own strategies to advance civic engagement and improve the rights of girls and women. Rise Up funds leaders' strategies to advance health, education, and equity for girls and women through civic engagement, and provides ongoing support and technical assistance to ensure their success. Rise Up values prioritize local knowledge, expertise, and leadership, and invests in leaders to achieve important goals in the areas of health, education, equity, and rights for girls and women.

Rise Up's externally validated model empowers girls and civil society advocates to strengthen their leadership, innovation, and advocacy; invests in leaders' strategies to advance laws and policies benefitting girls and women; and amplifies leaders' impact to build movements and transform health, education, and equity for girls and women globally. We believe civic engagement is key to creating a more just and equitable world. By enabling

leaders to advocate and engage with decision makers for policies that can improve the lives of girls and women, we are able to scale our impact and achieve large-scale change.

Rise Up's Model for Exponential Change



Rise Up uses a ripple approach to activate girls and women for a more just and equitable world. Beginning with a focus on individual leadership development, Rise Up creates impacts that multiply, by enabling leaders to strengthen their organizations, lead change in their communities, and advance national level impact through improved laws, programs, and funding for women and girls, as outlined below:

Ripple Methodology for Large Scale Impact



Invest in leaders

- Select visionary leaders through competitive selection process
- Conduct intensive training focused on leadership, advocacy, and innovation
- Connect leaders to coaches, mentors, and networks

Build Organizational Capacity

- Conduct Institutional Strengthening workshops to strengthen organizational capacity
- Conduct Training of Trainers to enable leaders to disseminate their learnings
- Support organizations to develop sustainability plans

Create Community Level Change

- Award grant funding to support leaders' civic engagement strategies to advance health, education and equity for girls and women
- Provide technical assistance to ensure effective implementation of these strategies
- Support leaders to train other leaders and organizations

Advance National Scale Impact

- Enable leaders to launch strategies that improve health, education, and equity
- Create opportunities for leaders to share their work in national and global convenings
- Develop resources, videos, and communications tools to engage decision makers

2. Do you work with partners to achieve your goals? If yes, please describe the role partners play in your strategy.

Rise Up's global network includes 500 civil society organizations around the world that we partner with to advocate for improved health, education and equity. We also work closely with key global and national partners and networks to maximize and sustain our collective impacts within the sector, including the United Nations' Every Woman Every Child Initiative, the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn, Child Health, the World Economic Forum, the Coalition for Adolescent Girls, the Joint Advocacy Group, and the Brookings Institute's Girls CHARGE Initiative.

Our partnerships within the sector are key to our work in amplifying the power and voices of girls and women, sharing our lessons, tools and resources with the field, and exploring opportunities for joint collaboration. For example, we have just received new funding from the Gates Foundation to launch the [Collective Impact Partnership](#) to advance economic power and justice for girls and women in India, a collaboration with the Global Fund for Women, World Pulse, and the Global Women's Leadership network.

3. What distinguishes your organization from others working in this area?

We are deeply committed to investing in the vision, leadership, and solutions of local advocates, rather than taking a top down approach to creating social change. Further, unlike many organizations that do leadership development and advocacy capacity building, we provide local leaders with the funding and resources they need to create their own solutions and launch their own strategies to increase civic engagement.

Rise Up's success hinges on selecting visionary local leaders, strengthening their leadership and the effectiveness of their organizations, and enabling them to achieve local and national

impacts by providing the funding, resources, networks, and support they need to achieve large scale change. Through advocacy, innovation and leadership Rise Up is enabling girls and women to become leaders, finish school, overcome poverty and violence, and access opportunity.

Leveraging Rise Up's methodology, theory of change, metrics, and evaluation findings, we have built a reputation for excellence in advocacy, policy, and research, with deep programmatic expertise in the areas of girl-centered programming focused on addressing the legal, cultural, and structural obstacles that limit women and girls from reaching their potential.

Programs

Please describe the program(s) that best fits our funding focus – Civic Engagement (we understand that, in some cases, our funding topic will be the sole focus of your organization):

1. Please provide a brief overview of the relevant program(s)

Let Girls Lead Initiative

Rise Up's Let Girls Lead Initiative (LGL) builds civic engagement by strengthening the leadership and impact of girls, civil society leaders and organizations in Malawi, Uganda, Ethiopia, Liberia, Guatemala and Honduras. We identify the most promising girl leaders, allies, and local organizations and invest in their vision to increase the civic engagement of marginalized populations to address the challenges facing marginalized girls in their own local contexts. Our model privileges local knowledge, expertise, and leadership, and enables our partners to achieve the priorities they identify through our intensive capacity building process.

Key Objectives

- Strengthen the capacity of girl leaders and civil society advocates and organizations to promote the rights of adolescent girls and engage them meaningfully in civil society processes. Using Rise Up's field tested and externally-validated model, Rise Up will conduct girl-centered advocacy workshops that support the efforts of girl leaders and organizations to build public, political, and legal support for adolescent girls' rights and wellbeing.
- Ensure the sustainable impact and successful implementation of girl-centered country-based advocacy strategies by providing expanded seed grant funding and ongoing technical assistance to Let Girls Lead partners and networks advocating with and for adolescent girls.
- Amplify the voices and power of girls to advocate for increased local, national, and global investment in girl-centered programming by creating opportunities for girl leaders to share their experiences and advocate for their priorities with decision-makers.

Girl-centered advocacy and civic engagement is at the core of Rise Up's approach to empowering girls and women to stand up, raise their voices, and lead change. With One Sky's funding, we will support country-based movements to increase civic engagement by providing Rise Up girl-led networks in Guatemala with training, seed grant funding, and technical

assistance. Our Let Girls Lead Initiative will leverage Rise Up's tools, regional experts, network, and girl-centered advocacy methodology and curriculum to strengthen civil society leaders and community-based organizations to effectively engage with decision makers and advocate for policies that improve the health, education and equity of girls and women.

2. What are your current programmatic priorities?

Girls and women around the world face tremendous obstacles that limit their potential to engage in civil society and negatively affect the socio-economic wellbeing of their families and communities. 600 million girls live in poverty and 82 million girls are child brides. They have limited access to health services and education, and are marginalized by legal and political frameworks that negate their basic human rights. Less than 2¢ of every \$1 in international development funding goes to programs supporting adolescent girls (Nike Foundation).

Despite these challenges, Rise Up believes that girls and women have the power to transform their lives, communities, and countries. Rise Up enables them to harness that power by strengthening leadership, investing in local solutions, and building movements to advance their health, education, and equity. One of Rise Up's programmatic priorities is to address the legal, cultural, and structural obstacles that contribute to adolescent girls' high rates of forced marriage, early pregnancy, school dropout, maternal mortality, and pervasive poverty. We do this by empowering girl leaders and their allies to raise their voices, advocate for change, and build broader movements of advocates working to improve the lives of girls through our Let Girls Lead Initiative.

3. What are your current programmatic challenges?

Civil society is under threat in many of the countries where Rise Up works. Security and safety in most of the regions Rise Up works continue as challenges for our partners and their organizations. For example, Honduras and Guatemala are on the list of the top 10 world's most dangerous countries outside of a war zone. Further, government corruption, repression of civil society advocates, and pervasive gender and ethnic discrimination are prevalent in many of the countries we work. Religious and cultural barriers around sexual health and reproductive rights remain barriers for marginalized populations supported by Rise Up. Rise Up's funding, technical assistance and targeted training are designed to support leaders and their organizations in overcoming prejudicial obstacles to advocacy efforts and contribute to inclusive gender equity.

To respond to the increasing challenges facing girls' and women's rights advocates, Rise Up recently launched a Rapid Response Fund. Through this vital new fund, Rise Up champions and allies can access funds to respond to rapidly shifting political realities and increasing forms of civil society repression. Our Rise Up leaders are on the front lines of advocacy movements in their countries and face increasing political oppression and higher risk to personal security. This new fund allows us to support Rise Up champions effectively when an emergency arises with access to legal representation, emergency travel, or relocation, as needed in order to ensure their safety.

Impact

1. What, briefly, is your organization's approach to understanding your impact?

Ongoing Monitoring and Evaluation:

Rise Up's evaluation methodology utilizes a variety of methods to collect relevant data and showcase the successes of the program and the achievements of leaders and their organizations. We use quantitative methods, including surveys and written evaluations to assess outcomes of the capacity building and technical assistance processes. We use qualitative analysis, including interviews and surveys, to monitor participants' advocacy strategies and dissemination and outreach activities. Rise Up captures the developmental and transformational changes generated by leaders, their organizations, and girl leaders by examining the linkages between direct results observed and broader impacts of the advocacy strategies. Outcomes and outputs are measured against diverse qualitative and quantitative indicators.

External Evaluation:

The International Center for Women's Research (ICRW) is currently conducting an evaluation of Rise Up's impacts in Guatemala and Honduras since 2009. The evaluation will be finalized and disseminated in the Fall of 2018 and we look forward to key insights from the evaluation on the various programming and advocacy strategies Rise Up, our leaders, partners and allies have all implemented together in Central America over the past 9 years. The ultimate goal of the evaluation is to share best practices and lessons learned on shifting attitudes and practices, and on changing community and national level policies, programs and indicators related to adolescent girls' rights, health, education, and livelihoods in communities in Central America. Likewise, the ICRW is our lead evaluation partner on our work to improve girls' access to education and bring an end to child marriage in Malawi, with funding from the Gates Foundation.

2. What are your key output and outcome (or other) metrics?

Program Indicators

Indicators measuring Rise Up leaders' success in implementing advocacy strategies will include:

- Viability and impact of advocacy strategies and quality of projects implemented
- Number of organizations that implement Rise Up participants' advocacy strategies
- Number of advocacy wins as a result of Rise Up grantees' advocacy work

Rise Up capacity building indicators will focus on participants' changes in capacity concerning:

- Demonstrated ability to influence policies, programs, and practices to advance adolescent girls' health, education, and rights
- Knowledge of legal, political, and social contexts for adolescent girls

Indicators to assess technical assistance provided by Rise Up staff and consultants will include:

- Number of participants and institutions requesting and receiving technical assistance
- Types, frequency, and quality of technical assistance provided

Indicators to monitor participants' movement building activities will include:

- Number of dissemination activities conducted, by type of audience and organization
- Number of networks and organizations that strengthen their work on adolescent girls' health, education, and rights as a result of Rise Up dissemination efforts
- Number of adolescent girls demonstrating increased knowledge of their rights and capacity to advocate for their own interests

3. What has been your impact to date? (please include demographic information about who you serve and how many are impacted by your work, annually and to date)

Since 2009, Rise Up's powerful network of over 500 leaders has directly benefited 7 million girls, youth, and women, advocating for over 100 laws and policies impacting 115 million people in Africa, Latin America, South Asia, and the US. Success include:

- Reducing the practice of child marriage in Malawi through girl-led grassroots mobilization resulting in a national ban that protects 4 million girls from early marriage, as described in Malawian girl leader Memory Banda's powerful [TED Talk](#), which has over 1.2 million views.
- Improving indigenous Guatemalan girls' access to education through girl-led community mobilization leading to increased funding and support for girls' education, as described in this [NPR article](#).
- Empowering girls to raise their voices, engage in civil society, and advocate for their rights around the world through strategic media advocacy, such as through this [recent interview](#) between Michelle Obama and Guatemalan girl leader Alejandra Teleguario.
- Advancing Liberian girls' access to opportunity through passage of the National Children's Law guaranteeing the right of 2 million children to attend school, as described in this [case study](#).
- Protecting the rights of young girls in Guatemala with the passage of a law that bans child marriage with no exceptions through strategic girl-centered advocacy led by Rise Up leaders, partners, and allies, as described in this [Christian Science Monitor article](#).

Staffing

1. How does your staff reflect the populations you serve? Do you hire locally, and if so what percentage of regional staff are from that region?

The US-based and international staff of Rise Up reflect the populations we serve in terms of gender and ethnicity. All country representatives and support staff in our key focus countries (Malawi, Uganda, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Liberia, Kenya, Mexico, Honduras, and Guatemala) are local, in-country nationals. Currently we have a total of 10 country-based staff and 11 US-based staff. Likewise, our US-based staff reflect the populations we serve and the regions where we work, and 7 out of our 11 US-based staff are women of color.

2. Are there any key positions not currently filled?

All key positions are currently filled. We are currently in the process of hiring for a new Country Representative position in India.

3. How long has your executive director been in her or his current role?

Rise Up's Executive Director Denise Dunning is the founder of the organization and has been leading it since 2009.

Governance

1. Please attach a list of Board of Directors including affiliations, tenures, and terms.

Rise Up is based at the Public Health Institute, which serves as the 501c3 sponsor for more than 200 programs. The [Public Health Institute Board of Directors](#) is made up of diverse professionals from across the public health sector.

In 2015, Rise Up created an independent [Leadership Council](#) to support unrestricted fund development and strategic growth.

2. What percentage of the Board of Directors financially supports the organization?

Rise Up is proud that we have a 100% financial commitment level from our Leadership Council.

3. To what extent do board members represent the populations you serve?

PHI's board of directors is diverse in both gender and ethnicity, and is reflective of the populations that our programs serve. Rise Up's Leadership Council is made up of mainly women, and our priority is to increase the Leadership Council's racial and ethnic diversity as we grow our membership.

Funders

1. Please attach a list of current funders (or include the relevant link to your website)

Rise Up's Institutional funders:

- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- UN Foundation
- Cummins Inc. Foundation
- David and Lucile Packard Foundation
- Summit Foundation
- WestWind Foundation
- Novo Foundation
- AstraZeneca
- Johnson & Johnson

2. If you receive a grant from One Sky, how would the money most likely be used?

Rise Up will use One Sky's \$25,000 grant to increase girls' civic engagement and enable girls to raise their voices and claim their rights through our Let Girls Lead Initiative.

With One Sky's support, we will invest in girl-led campaigns in Guatemala to enable girl leaders to advocate for effective implementation of both national and local laws and policies that improve the health, education and rights of girls. By providing leadership and advocacy training to Rise Up's networks of girl leaders in Guatemala, we will enable girls to become leaders in their communities and speak out for their right to finish school, live safe from violence, and say no to child marriage.

In Guatemala we will support Rise Up's Quetzaltenango Girl Network and Itzapa Girl Network to advocate for effective implementation of a recently passed law that protects girls from early marriage. With funding and support from Rise Up, girl leaders successfully advocated for landmark legislation that bans child marriage in Guatemala. Following the Guatemalan Congress' passage of this important new legislation in August 2017, girl leaders and their allies are advocating for effective implementation of the new law, educating girls about their rights, and mobilizing their communities to be part of the democratic process. Investing in girls to ensure effective implementation of the new law will protect 2 million Guatemalan girls from early marriage.

With funds from One Sky, we will also support Guatemalan girl leaders and their allies in civic engagement and advocacy by creating case studies, policy briefs, and other tools to disseminate information about the Guatemala Marriage Law. These tools do not currently exist and Rise Up leaders have told us that these resources are critical in their efforts to educate girls, their parents, and communities about the new legislation and to build political will among policy makers and traditional leaders. With One Sky funding in 2015, we created these types of resources for our Malawian partners to use in community-based dialogues on ending child marriage and they greatly enhanced the successful adoption and enforcement of Malawi's Child Marriage Law.

In addition to this national campaign to increase girls' engagement in civil society and ensure effective implementation of the new child marriage law, Rise Up will also support girls to advocate at the local level for their health and rights. We will support girl leaders who are part of the Quetzaltenango Girl Network to launch a project, "Voices for Change" to increase the civic participation of girls by advocating for girls' meaningful representation in the Departmental Development Councils (CODEDE), the greatest department level decision-making body in Quetzaltenango. CODEDE plays a key role in programmatic and budgetary decision-making for Guatemala's second largest city. Through 'Voices for Change' the girl leaders will advocate for youth-friendly policies guaranteeing access to sexual reproductive health information and services, teen pregnancy prevention and violence prevention, which will improve the lives of 200 thousand girls.

Charitable Purpose

Does your organization have audited financials? Yes No

If available on your website, please include a link here, or attach a copy to this form

If US-based

- Is your organization a registered 501(c)(3)? Yes No
- If no, please explain:

If not US-based

- Can you provide evidence of NGO registration with relevant government authorities where required by local law? Yes No
- If yes, please list the names of the forms required by your government that provide proof of NGO registration (you do not need to attach forms at this time):

Presenting to One Sky Giving Circle Membership

Each year the One Sky grant committee chooses a slate of four organizations (two domestic, two international) to present to our full membership for voting. We ask that a representative from each of those four organizations presents at our annual member meeting.

This year our annual meeting, in San Francisco, California, is on **Wednesday, May 23rd, 2018, beginning at 7pm PST**. If your organization is chosen for the slate, would a representative be available on this date and time to present to our group, either in person or via Skype?

Yes, we could present in person.

Notes

IN 2017:



Rise Up Champions advocated for **16 laws, policies, and budgets** benefiting girls and women. Rise Up grantees are advancing large-scale change, including a huge policy win in Guatemala outlawing child marriage, and exciting new steps to implement Liberia's Girls' Manifesto in support of the National Children's Law.

Rise Up has provided **\$574,500 in seed funding** directly to organizations in **10 different countries** to advance the rights of girls and women.



72 youth and adult leaders have learned how to launch advocacy campaigns, and gone on to **train upwards of 1,777 more advocates**, a multiplying investment that is powering a movement.

Rise Up has supported **16 leaders** to share their powerful work at the UN General Assembly and other global convenings, amplifying their voices with policymakers and funders.

