

Some Grant Possibilities

For Community Initiatives Worldwide Focused on Mental Health, Psychosocial, Physical Health, Resilience, Development, and Environmental/Climate Issues

April 24, 2026

Due to cuts in many government funding programs, increasing competition for other sources of funds, and other factors, it is challenging today for start-up and ongoing community mental health, psychosocial, physical health, resilience, and environmental/climate programs to secure funding.

The best way for start-up community-led resilience initiatives to secure support is to use grassroots fundraising. After the resilience network has demonstrated some success, and has established itself as an NGO (or has partnered with an existing NGO to raise funds), it can seek grants to support its operations.

This document includes list of grant possibilities available in nations worldwide that could be appropriate for community-led resilience networks. It is a very incomplete list, as many other large, mid-size, and small grant options exist. We are providing this list to help people understand some of the options that exist in their region.

We know that application deadlines for some of the grants found in the document have passed. However, it is always helpful to know the type of grants a funder offers. We urge readers to review the websites of funders to learn about upcoming grant possibilities and their deadlines.

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7 Steps to Secure Your Startup Grant

Finding the right startup grants can be difficult, especially when you're just getting your organization off the ground. Here are seven steps you can take to secure that first grant.

1. Research similar nonprofit organizations

Begin your search for grants by researching charitable organizations, NGOs, private, and government organizations with similar missions to yours. Review their websites and look for dedicated grant pages or links to their tax forms.

You can also use websites like Charity Navigator and GuideStar, which provide financial and program information for nonprofit organizations worldwide. These sites can help you find tax forms and a list of government and foundation grant sources that these organizations have received. Additionally, connect with other NGOs to learn about potential startup funding strategies.

Once you have a list of relevant startup grants, deepen your research and check out their website or online grant databases for detailed guidelines on funding opportunities and how you can receive funding.

2. Start small with nonprofit grant opportunities

While it may be tempting to apply for grants with larger rewards, it's important to focus your time where it will have the greatest impact. Some larger foundations, particularly international and national ones, may have greater financial stability, but they can be more cautious about supporting new nonprofits, although individual policies vary.

Focus on grant programs like small business grants where your organization meets all the eligibility requirements, increasing your chances of success. Start by applying for local and smaller grants within your city or town, and then move on to bigger opportunities to attract donors.

3. Pay attention to grant guidelines

Grant funding guidelines vary drastically across every charitable foundation, NGO, private, and government organization. Each grant program also has its specific criteria for how funding needs are typically awarded.

It's better to take the time upfront to ensure your general operations meet the requirements rather than to work hard on applications that will ultimately fail. Familiarizing yourself with guidelines also includes understanding post-award requirements. Grant-giving institutions typically require reports on how funds are used and the progress achieved through the awarded grant.

4. Get your paperwork in order

Prepare the following documents in advance to streamline your grant program application process:

- Organization history
- Background information of your organization's founders
- Nonprofit strategic plan or business plan
- Nonprofit mission and vision, including new initiatives
- A statement highlighting how your programs is unique

5. Build relationships

You have a higher chance of winning the nonprofit startup grant with personal connections. Do members of your steering committee, board, or stakeholders have connections to potential funders? If so, they might be able to connect you to the right people and arrange introductory meetings to present the vision of your resilience network. You can also enquire from your staff, volunteers, and other supporters if they have any ties with grant-giving institutions.

It may also be beneficial to network yourself. Find ways to build relationships with local foundations, NGOs, private and government funders. Talk with other NGOs to seek advice, introductions, and networking opportunities related to funders.

6. Take feedback into account

As you apply to various grant-giving foundations, it's likely you won't hear back from all of them. However, this doesn't mean that those rejected applications were a waste of time. Instead, contact the funders and see if they can provide any suggestions. Any feedback you receive from grant funders should be recorded and applied to other applications. If they can't provide any information, share the application with your professional network and ask for feedback.

You can also contact a professional grant service or a grant writer and ask them to review your application and help you with the proposal.

7. Look for different funding opportunities

Start-up resilience networks should not count on grants to get up and running as most grant providers fund organizations with a track record of success. Instead, incorporate a variety of funding sources into your strategy, especially grassroots fundraising. In addition, while grants can be valuable, they often come with restrictions on how you can use the funds, potentially limiting your organization's flexibility.

By diversifying your funding streams, you'll give your nonprofit more freedom to operate and adapt to changing needs, including scalable solutions. This ensures greater long-term sustainability and impact for community needs.

Here are some key funding options to consider:

- *Grassroots Fundraising:* Actively involve local residents in a variety of activities to raise funds from the community including many types of fun events.
- *Individual Memberships and Donations:* Create an online page for individual memberships (US \$10-25) and larger donations(US \$50-\$10,000 or more). Ask members of your resilience network to share it with their peers and secure donations.
- *Social Media Fundraising:* Set up a profile on social media channels like Facebook or Instagram. Use their platform-specific donation feature, like Donate Now stickers, to raise funds.
- *Fundraising events:* Host a launch event, either virtual or in-person. It will allow you to raise money while spreading awareness about your nonprofit's mission.
- *Fiscal Sponsorship:* Partnering with an established NGO to act as a fiscal sponsor to allow you to raise funds under their umbrella before getting your official NGO status. This can simplify the process of securing early funds.
- *In-Kind Donations:* Instead of money, seek in-kind donations. These can include office space, equipment, promotional help, or professional services (legal, accounting, etc.) from local academic organizations, businesses, governments, or individuals.

Final comments on seeking startup grants

Securing startup funding is a critical step in bringing your resilience network's vision to life. While grants can provide essential initial support, they're just one piece of a comprehensive funding strategy. As you explore various grant opportunities, remember that diversification is key to long-term sustainability.

By combining your grant-seeking efforts with other fundraising methods, you not only increase your chances of securing funds but also build a strong community around your cause.

Some Grant Possibilities for Community Initiatives in North America

EPN's Monthly Bulletin is a resource guide to funding opportunities—including philanthropic, state, and local funding. Check out the [Funding Bulletin](#), and use [EPN's Technical Assistance Request Form](#) to request 1:1 funding discovery support or other technical assistance. You can also access L4GG's Sprint Hub for direct legal support for all types of green finance needs for community projects. In addition, L4GG's Green Finance Team can help you navigate the complex world of alternative funding sources. Get direct pro bono assistance for your project [here](#)

The Rockefeller Foundation offers grants to NGOs to address a variety of issues: <https://www.rockefellerfoundation.org/united-states/>

Ben & Jerry's Foundation supports community-based, grassroots organizations that tackle environmental sustainability and social injustice. Its National Grassroots Organizing Program (NGO) provides two-year grants for constituent-led, small nonprofits and grassroots organizations in the United States and its territories. These nonprofit grants offer unrestricted, general operating support. Organizations can receive up to \$30,000 per year, with an average grant size of \$20,000 per year. Applications for each grant program are accepted year-round through their website: <https://benandjerrysfoundation.org/>

Bank of America Charitable Foundation Grants supports organizations focusing on issues fundamental to economic mobility in moderate and low-income communities. They offer a grant program called *Economic Mobility Focused on the Needs of the Community*: Focused on organizations offering affordable housing, small business resiliency, and neighborhood revitalization: <https://about.bankofamerica.com/en/making-an-impact/grant-funding-for-nonprofits-sponsorship-programs>

State Farm Community Development grants gives nonprofit grants to groups that help communities, with a focus on improving safety, education, and growth. State Farm Community Development grants target organizations that invest in and develop stronger neighborhoods by offering: Affordable housing - including home repair and construction; Job training programs; Small business and commercial development initiatives; Financial literacy education; Sustainable housing and transportation solutions; Programs addressing food insecurity; Neighborhood revitalization projects. <https://www.statefarm.com/about-us/corporate-responsibility/community-grants>

The Pollination Project (TPP) Grants support grassroots and community-level changemakers who work towards creating a more compassionate world. It awards up to \$1000 in seed funding to early-stage nonprofits with less than \$50,000 in annual budgets. The TPP also offers capacity-building support and connections with other changemakers within its global network. Applications for these nonprofit grant programs are reviewed by volunteer grant advisors who have previously secured funds from TPP. Their Daily Grants Program is very valuable for start-ups: <https://thepollinationproject.org/pre-screen-quiz/>

The American Psychiatric Association MOORE Equity in Mental Health Community Grants Program provides funding for organizations that provide innovative awareness programs or offer services to improve mental health for young people of color. Their grant awards are \$10,000 for a two-year period. The application cycle is open from August 1 to September 30 each year: <https://www.apaf.org/our-programs/grants-and-awards/grants/the-moore-equity-in-mental-health-community-grants-program/>

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation awards funds in accordance with four key areas focused on health equity. These include: Building health systems around the goal of improved health for everyone; Furthering research and programs that increase health among children and families; Developing initiatives supporting healthy communities; Supporting leaders as they address and solve the nation's health challenges. The foundation typically sends out a call for proposals explaining high-priority challenges, goals, eligibility, and deadlines (which vary by program). It also offers challenges, competitions, and open calls for innovative ideas: <https://www.rwjf.org/>

Elevance Health Foundation currently focuses its grantmaking work on programs and organizations that can demonstrate impact in these areas: Maternal and infant health; Food as medicine; Behavioral health; Disaster relief and community resiliency. The deadlines for these grants vary. Typically, grants last between one and three years, and funding levels depend on factors such as financial need and specific plans: <https://elevancehealth.foundation/>

Scattergood Foundation funds projects and programs that serve to improve the behavioral health space. Its mental health funding priorities include: Building a more compassionate and inclusive society that centers behavioral health; Challenging inequalities that disadvantage marginalized people and communities; Sharing power and bringing together agents of change; Elevating the voices of those who are often unheard; Accelerating improvement through community skill-building. The foundation prioritizes organizations that serve or are led by individuals of color, with an emphasis on programs serving the greater Philadelphia area or nationwide. Programs limited to other regions within the US may still be considered: <https://www.scattergoodfoundation.org/>

Mental Health America (MHA) is a national organization that strives to promote mental health, well-being, and the prevention of mental health conditions. As a nonprofit organization, it receives grants (including a \$3.5 million grant from Elevance Health in 2022) but also offers small grants or partnership funding opportunities. Through initiatives like the Equity Impact Zones program, it has provided multi-year funds to community-led initiatives to improve access to mental health support: <https://mhanational.org/arc/fundraising-resources/>

The Centene Foundation focusing on health-related and awards long-term grants and partnerships to organizations focused on: Healthcare; Social services; Education. The fall application cycle runs from September 1 to November 30, and the spring cycle runs from March 1 to May 31. Organizations that receive grants must work with a program manager to complete an annual outcomes report, which details how funds were used, the impact

achieved, and any key metrics or stories demonstrating program success:
<https://www.centene.com/who-we-are/centene-foundation.html>

The Draper Richards Kaplan Foundation (DRK) offers early-stage funding focused on solving pressing social and environmental issues. Its focus areas are organizations operating in Africa, Europe, Latin America, India, and the US. Independent and 501(c)(3) nonprofits and fiscally sponsored organizations in select cases can apply. Deadline: Applications reviewed on a rolling basis <https://tinyurl.com/bdbncswb>

Specialized Mental Health Grants

These grants focus on mental health innovation, community-driven models, or recovery. They're considered "specialized" because they often target specific populations or approaches, are infrequently offered, or may provide different funding (more flexible or larger amounts) than typical grants.

The MacArthur Foundation funds projects spanning policy, research, and more, as well as competitions like 100&Change, which awards a \$100 million grant to those attempting to solve critical problems. While not solely focused on behavioral health, the foundation aims to address social challenges. Because it offers several different grants, ranging from criminal justice to societal impacts of technology, deadlines and application requirements vary. The foundation prefers not to receive unsolicited proposals and instead asks that interested parties review the guidelines and apply accordingly:
<https://www.macfound.org/>

The Bloomberg Center for Public Innovation at Johns Hopkins University is accepting applications from cities for its 2026–2028 Love Your Block Grant program, a two-year civic engagement initiative that brings city leaders and residents together to strengthen neighborhoods block by block. Selected cities will receive \$270,000, along with coaching and hands-on implementation support, to advance resident-driven projects. An [informational webinar](#) will be held on May 15 from 1-2pm eastern, and applications are due June 1, 2026; [register here](#). For questions contact BCPIcivicengagement@jh.edu.

FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Grant Program has announced \$1 billion in available funding through its Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program, an initiative that prioritizes pre-disaster mitigation over costly post-event recovery. Eligible applicants include states, U.S. territories, and federally recognized Tribal Nations, while local governments and special districts may apply as sub-applicants. Interested applicants and sub-applicants may review the Notice of Funding Opportunity on [Grants.gov](#). For more information on the BRIC program, applicants should contact their FEMA Regional Office or visit [their website](#). Applications must be submitted through the [FEMA GO system](#), with a final deadline of July 23 at 3pm eastern.

Some Grant Possibilities for Community Initiatives in Africa

Below are possibilities listed by the African NGO Fundraising Hub. Some of the grant deadlines have already passed, but check out the funders website for other grant possibilities and regularly check the Hub for ongoing updates.

(<https://africanngos.org/2026/04/08/african-ngo-funding-opportunities-april-may-2026/>)

The Rockefeller Foundation gives grants to NGOs in Africa:

<https://www.rockefellerfoundation.org/africa/>

The Draper Richards Kaplan Foundation (DRK) offers early-stage funding focused on solving pressing social and environmental issues. Its focus areas are organizations operating in Africa, Europe, Latin America, India, and the US. Independent and 501(c)(3) nonprofits and fiscally sponsored organizations in select cases can apply. Their aim is to find social entrepreneurs with dynamic ideas and provide them with three years of unrestricted capital. Grant cans be submitted online and is accepted year-round. DRK distributes funding opportunities twice a year over a three-year term, totaling \$300,000. Deadline: Applications reviewed on a rolling basis <https://tinyurl.com/bdbncswb>

Thriving Farmers, Resilient Ecosystems, Empowered Communities, Issued by Common Fund for Commodities. Focuses on projects that enhance smallholder livelihoods and strengthen the communities they sustain and has US \$300,000 to \$2 million. Deadline: 1 April 2026 <https://tinyurl.com/2fhsknjf>

Youth Mental Health by Rare Impact Fund. Focuses on expand access to mental health services for young people by supporting organisations that train and support professionals working outside traditional clinical settings Gives US\$250,000 to \$500,000
Deadline: 10 April 2026. <https://tinyurl.com/4abycrjv>

Capacity Development by Welthungerhilfe. Focuses on strengthening the role of grassroots organisations in local governance and development in Ethiopia. Gives up to €10,000
Deadline: 27 April 2026 <https://tinyurl.com/yc6s4cue>

Mental Health Support for GBV Survivors in Kenya by Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS). Focuses on strengthen community-based mental health services for survivors of gender-based violence in Busia, Kilifi, Kisumu, Mombasa and Nyeri counties in Kenya. Deadline: 27 April 2026, <https://tinyurl.com/3rbzdt2w>

Dovetail Acceleration Programme by Dovetail Impact Foundation. Focuses on early-stage, locally-led African organisations with budgets of less than US \$500 000 serving people in poverty, health, livelihoods, education and justice. Gives US \$10,000 to 30,000 in unrestricted funding plus structured coaching and capacity support designed to strengthen the foundations required for long-term growth. Deadline: 28 April 2026. <https://tinyurl.com/5t2seadk>

Africa Climate and Environment Microgrants by Pulitzer Center. Focuses on strengthen public understanding and advocacy through storytelling, emphasising accountability and sustainable environmental governance. Gives US\$2,500 to \$3,000. Deadline: 30 April 2026 <https://tinyurl.com/yck73skr>

Small Grants 2026 by Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation & Slovak Embassy in Nairobi. Focuses on quality education, good health, good governance and civil society building, food safety and agriculture, infrastructure and sustainable use of natural resources, support for the creation of a market environment, environment and climate change, and gender equality in Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Somalia. Gives up to €60,000 Deadline: 30 April 2026. <https://tinyurl.com/3pax68hw>

Human Agency Innovations by The Agency Fund. Focuses on projects that help people navigate challenges, update their beliefs or expectations, and make decisions that shape their futures. Deadline: 18 May 2026 <https://tinyurl.com/4ranhtdf>

Climate Resilience Storytelling by National Geographic and The Climate Pledge. Focuses on stories that range from scientific breakthroughs to the resilience of communities in the face of a changing planet. Up to US\$100,000 per project. Deadline: 25 May 2026 <https://tinyurl.com/3mvpzvs>

NGO Support by Oneness Revival Team. Focuses on empowering grassroots initiatives, drive sustainable development and strengthen the capacity of NGOs working towards positive social, economic and environmental change. Gives: US \$25,000 to \$ 50,000 (SEED grant) and US\$25,000 to \$50,000 (THRIVE grant). Deadline: 20 December 2026 <https://tinyurl.com/4c6nm75>

AFNet Flexible Grant by African Women for Change Network (AFNet). Focuses on initiatives led by women leaders and organisations dedicated to creating positive change in their communities. Gives US\$5,000. Deadline: Applications reviewed on a rolling basis <https://tinyurl.com/hpn4bur3>

Education Access, Environmental Sustainability and Secure Livelihoods by Avery Dennison Foundation. Focuses on NGOs tackling challenges in high-need communities. Gives US\$50,000 to 100,000. Deadline: Applications reviewed on a rolling basis <https://tinyurl.com/44j9jz8d>

Friends of Liberia Small Grants Programme by Friends of Liberia. Focuses on Liberian-led NGOs working on community development projects. Gives US\$3,000. Deadline: Applications reviewed on a rolling basis <https://tinyurl.com/uu7f24ee>

Rapid Response Grants by: Urgent Action Fund Africa. Focuses on interventions that advance women's human rights. Gives up to US\$15,000. Deadline: Applications reviewed on a rolling basis. <https://tinyurl.com/49cy49pa>

Rufford Small Grants by Rufford Foundation. Focuses on nature conservation projects in emerging or developing economy countries. Gives £7,000 to 18,000. Deadline: Applications reviewed on a rolling basis <https://tinyurl.com/bdjm2hwv>

Strategic Opportunities Fund by: ActionAid Nigeria. Focuses on creative and innovative interventions aimed at advancing the rights of women and girls in Nigeria. Deadline: Applications reviewed on a rolling basis. <https://tinyurl.com/y2yyf7ms>

Water, Education and Healthcare by AJA Foundation. Focuses on organisations that focus on creating a sustainable impact. Deadline: Applications reviewed on a rolling basis <https://tinyurl.com/5747pbdb>

Dana Foundation Grants Programmed 2026: Offers up to €150,000 over three years (unrestricted) for locally led initiatives combating poverty. Deadline December 31, 2026: <https://dana.org/grantmaking>

CEPF Large Grants for Biodiversity Conservation: Large grants (\$50,000–\$250,000) for West African civil society organizations. Deadline May 11, 2026: <https://www.cepf.net/grants>

Nigeria Youth Futures Fund (NYFF): Offers catalytic grants up to US \$50,000 and individual/development grants for youth-led organizations (US \$1,000–\$10,000) for good governance (early 2026 deadlines): <https://nigeriayouthfund.org/>

ACT Foundation Grants: Supports health and entrepreneurship, with deadlines early in 2026 (e.g., January) and likely early 2027: https://actrustfoundation.org/grant_application

Some Grant Possibilities for Community Initiatives in Europe

Over 7,500 public-benefit foundations can be found on websites of organizations like Philea. <https://philea.eu/>

Wellcome Trust (UK) (<https://wellcome.org/>) focuses on mental health and psychosocial issues in many nations. They recently released a Request for Proposals for a five-year cohort support programme for eight funded research projects exploring the impacts of heat on mental health. The selected supplier will act as a convener and facilitator, working with grantees and Wellcome to develop a tailored programme that supports collaboration, skills development, and research impact across the grantees. Deadline for EOI is May 15 and deadline for RFP submission is June 19th. <https://cms.wellcome.org/sites/default/files/2026-04/Heat-and-mental-health-cohort-support.pdf>

Stichting INGKA Foundation (Netherlands) focuses on people in need. <https://www.ingkafoundation.org/>

Fondazione Cariplo (Italy) focusing on health, education, and social development: <https://www.fondazionecariplo.it/>

Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV): Protects and promotes EU rights, gender equality, and democratic engagement. <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/cerv>

LIFE Programme: Dedicated to environmental projects, biodiversity conservation, and climate action, including initiatives for the European Green Deal. https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/life_en

Horizon Europe: Supports research and innovation. NGOs can participate as partners in consortia or access "cascading grants" (small-scale funding from larger projects). https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en

European Social Fund Plus (ESF+): Focuses on employment, education, and social inclusion of marginalized communities. <https://european-social-fund-plus.ec.europa.eu/en>

Erasmus+: Funding for youth exchanges, education, and training projects. <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/>

Creative Europe: Supports projects in the cultural and creative sectors. <https://culture.ec.europa.eu/creative-europe>

Some Grant Possibilities for Community Initiatives in Asia

fundsforNGOs Premium: Lists numerous active calls for proposals, including small microgrants for local NGOs in Asia: <https://fundsforngospremium.com/>

DevelopmentAid Grants in Asia: A comprehensive database listing active tenders and grants (e.g., in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Philippines):
<https://www.developmentaid.org/grants/search?showAdvancedFilters=1&locations=5>

The Draper Richards Kaplan Foundation (DRK) offers early-stage funding focused on solving pressing social and environmental issues. Its focus areas are organizations operating in Africa, Europe, Latin America, India, and the US. DRK distributes funding opportunities twice a year over a three-year term, totaling \$300,000. Applications reviewed on a rolling basis: <https://tinyurl.com/bdbncswb>

ABOUT Asia emphasizes locally led solutions: <https://www2.fundsforngos.org/community-development/aboutasia-impact-grant-for-community-led-development/>

The Asia Foundation's South Asia Small Grants Program (SASGP): Supports civil society organizations with projects, including health-related, in Nepal:
https://asiafoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/SASGP-Guidance-for-Applicants_Sri-Lanka-English.pdf

CapitaLand Community Resilience Initiative: Focuses on health and well-being for children and youth across Asia, supported by AVPN. <https://www.capitaland.com/en/about-capitaland/sustainability/capitaland-hope-foundation/our-programmes-and-projects/capitaland-community-resilience-initiative.html>

Asian Community Fund 2026: Focuses on community well-being, food insecurity, and health equity: <https://www.tbf.org/nonprofits/grant-making-initiatives/asian-community-fund/asian-community-fund-fy26-grant-applications>

DREAM 4 Health has a call for proposals for Southeast Asian health initiatives: <https://sea-dream.org/research-funding/dream-4-health-call-proposals-2026>

The Rockefeller Foundation gives grants to NGOs in Asia:
<https://www.rockefellerfoundation.org/asia/>

Some Grant Possibilities for Community Initiatives in Latin America, South America, and the Caribbean

fundsforNGOs offers a list of grant possibilities for Latin and South America:
<https://www2.fundsforngos.org/articles-listicles/20-grants-available-for-latin-american-initiatives/>

Pan America Health Foundation tracks funding opportunities from different sources.
<https://www.paho.org/en/health-systems-and-services/external-funding-operations-health-systems-dashboard>

NBME Latin America Grant Program gives grants for two years for collaborative, innovative health education and assessment projects such as a grant for \$50,000 for health education:
<https://www.nbme.org/contributions/assessment/latin-america-grants>

Gilead Sciences Latin America & Caribbean Giving gives funds for initiatives focusing on community vibrancy: <https://www.gilead.com/responsibility/giving-at-gilead/corporate-giving/how-to-apply-for-funding/giving-in-latin-america-and-the-caribbean>

Conservation, Food and Health Foundation (works in Africa as well) supports projects and applied research that 1) Generate local or regional solutions to problems affecting the quality of the environment and human life; 2) Advance local leadership and promote professional development in the conservation, agricultural, and health sciences; 3) Develops the capacity of local organizations and coalitions; and 4) Addresses challenges in the field: <https://cfhfoundation.grantsmanagement08.com/>

RedEAmérica supports community development and social investment, often covering health initiatives: <https://redeamerica.org/#gsc.tab=0>

The Rockefeller Foundation gives grants to NGOs in Latin and South America and the Caribbean: <https://www.rockefellerfoundation.org/latin-america-and-caribbean/>

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