



Request for Applications (RFA) Frequently Asked Questions

South Africa 2026

I am originally from Gauteng or KwaZulu-Natal, but currently live and work in a different province. Can I apply?

This application is open for people currently working in Gauteng or KwaZulu-Natal Provinces. After the Leadership and Advocacy Accelerator training, we expect new Rise Up Leaders to implement what they've learned to positively impact women, girls, and/or gender-nonconforming people living in those areas.

My organization is a national organization with programs and offices across South Africa. Am I still eligible to apply if my organization works in other provinces in addition to Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal Provinces?

Yes! Employees of organizations working in multiple provinces are eligible to apply to be a Rise Up Leader, if your organization also runs programs in Gauteng or KwaZulu-Natal and is interested in advancing gender equity in those areas.

Am I required to be fluent in English?

We ask that applicants can understand verbal English and have an intermediate proficiency level in speaking and writing in English.

What is the expected time commitment?

We ask that applicants can participate in a six-day residential training from **April 13-18, 2026**, with availability to attend several one- to two-hour virtual sessions before and after the in-person workshop.

What kind of resources will be available during the training?

Rise Up Together will cover all costs related to program participation including transportation, accommodation, meals, and materials.

What is the word limit for my answers?

There is no word limit. However, in your application, we ask that you please make your answers as concise and clear as possible.

Why do you need my organization's information? How will that impact my ability to participate in the program?

We request information about the organization you work or volunteer for because your organization's details are crucial for ensuring alignment with the objectives of Rise Up Together's Leadership and Advocacy Accelerator program. If you work at multiple organizations, please complete this section, and the rest of the form questions, about the organization whose work is most relevant to Rise Up Together's program. All applicant's organizations must support their participation in Rise Up Together's Leadership and Advocacy Accelerator training and be willing to support the leader during project implementation.

What is the level of commitment of an organization?

If you are selected to be a Rise Up Leader, your organization must allow your participation during the virtual sessions and the 6-day, in-person residential training and be interested in you sharing



what you've learned with other members of the organization. Additionally, if selected for funding, the organization will support you during the implementation of a Rise Up Together-funded project. If you want to compete for funds and your organization is not legally registered and/or cannot receive international funds, you and your organization must identify a fiscal sponsor organization that can receive funds.

I am the founder of my own organization. Can I list it as my organization?

Yes, if your organization is related to one of Rise Up Together's thematic areas as listed in the eligibility criteria.

I don't have a supervisor. Should I leave that question blank?

Do not leave this question blank. If you do not have a person that directly supervises your work, you may mention the name of the person who works with you and knows your work well. For example, if you are a Director, you may list your Executive Director, or if you are the Executive Director, you may list the name of a board member.

Rise Up Together has previously selected a leader from my organization, am I still eligible to apply?

Yes, it will not impact the likelihood of you being selected. Also, we accept more than one leader application per organization.

When will I hear back from the Rise Up Together team about selection?

We will be reviewing applications and conducting interviews with finalists over Zoom and/or WhatsApp in February and March 2026. Once all interviews are completed, the Rise Up Together team will select the final 25 candidates for our 2026 South Africa cohort. **Only accepted applicants will receive final decision letters by March 4th, 2026.**

I have a question that is not on this FAQ. Who do I contact?

For any questions regarding the RFA, eligibility criteria, and/or our programming in South Africa, please contact the Rise Up Together's South Africa Country Representative, Rethabile Mphutlane at SouthAfricaRep@riseuptogether.org.