

FAQs for Heirs Property

1. What is the format of the Funders Forum?

This is not a conference and this is not a workshop with panel discussions.

The Funder's Forum will be conducted in a 'shark-tank' like environment with the scaled initiatives being delivered to the Funders. There are two primary groups in attendance at the Funder Forum are:

- **philanthropic and similar organizations** willing to consider grants, investments, and/or other resources in scaled pilot initiatives solutions to the challenge of Heirs Property, and
- **organizations who have a scaled pilot initiative(s)** that will present solutions focused on one or more of the five categories (education and awareness; pro-bono legal services; academic research; local government innovation; and developer/contractor driven affordable housing initiatives)

2. I received an email asking me to submit information about my organization and a proposal for a potential initiative addressing the heirs property challenge. What is this for?

The purpose of this email is to gather information through an online format about organizations that work or may be planning to work in the area of addressing the heirs property challenge. Organizations will also be able to write a short description of a proposed Pilot Initiative that supports current or potential work addressing heirs property challenges. This information will be used to develop a Briefing Book for the philanthropic and similar organizations who will be in attendance.

Pilot Initiatives should fall within one or more of the following categories:

- Education and awareness
- Pro-bono legal services
- Local government innovation
- Academic research
- Developer/contractor driven affordable housing initiatives

There are no set guidelines for organizations to follow when describing their proposed Pilot Initiative. Organizations should propose initiatives that meet the heirs property challenge and are innovative, aligned with their mission, and have likelihood of success. Information about the Pilot Initiative should include program focus, population to be served, geographic area, expertise needed, and funding needs. The Pilot Initiatives collected through this process are designed to set the stage for further conversation with funders, who will each have their own grant application guidelines and process. They are analogous to a "letter of intent" or "pre-application" process, which some funders use to understand an organization's project idea before asking them to submit a full proposal.

3. How much grant funding will be available at the Funder's Forum?

Funders from across multiple states are being invited. Each funder will have the opportunity to meet organizations as well as review the information gathered and Pilot Initiatives proposed and decide on their interest in funding, but they are not required to fund any particular amount or quantity of Pilot Initiatives. Funding of any organization is totally at the discretion of the funders, however they are attending because they are committed to assisting with solutions to supporting efforts that solve heirs property issues.

4. When will I find out if I am going to be funded?

The Funder's Forum takes place on December 2, 2021. Some indication of funding interest may be expressed at the Forum; other funding indications will occur through continuous engagement post-event.

5. How much money can each Pilot Initiative receive?

There is no pre-set limit for a funding amount. The Pilot Initiatives described should indicate funding needs and include a general description of what the funds will be used for. They are designed to set the stage for further conversation with funders, who will each have their own guidelines about how much and what they fund as well as their own funding process.

6. What is the timeframe for the Pilot Initiatives?

Each Pilot Initiative should propose a timeframe that makes sense for that particular initiative. There is no prescribed timeframe. In other words, the organization must determine a reasonable timeframe based on the initiative proposed, taking into account their experience with working with funders and their capacity to implement the initiative successfully based on factors such as their current experience working in the heirs property area, their size, and realistic funding needs.

7. What type of Pilot Initiatives are being sought and will likely be considered for funding?

Pilot Initiatives should fall within one or more of the following categories:

- Education and awareness
- Pro-bono legal services
- Local government innovation
- Academic research
- Developer/contractor driven affordable housing initiatives

When you complete the online form, you will select one or more of the above categories.

Examples of possible projects within these categories are as follows (please note that the examples are for illustrative purposes only, we encourage innovative and workable solutions):

Education and Awareness – “Property literacy” efforts focused on targeted communities and populations designed to reduce the occurrence to heirs/tangled title property issues, for example.

Pro-bono Legal Services – Legal services to assist with clearing title issues, and/or legal services to assist with wills and estate planning to prevent the creation of a title issue, and efforts to amend current laws that force sale of property when there is an heirs property issue, for example.

Academic Research –Research into the existence and identification of properties which have title issues due to transfer without appropriate documentation, examining the failures of the current systems to prevent occurrence, the inequities of the current requirements for various federal programs that preclude application by an heirs property occupant, for example.

Local Government Innovation – Local, regional or state based government or quasi-government solutions. Comprehensive approaches that may include code enforcement initiatives, infill housing programs, etc., for example.

Developer/Contractor Driven Affordable Housing Initiatives – Affordable housing projects that include as a component the resolution of properties encumbered by tangled title issues. Infill housing initiatives in neighborhoods with high incidence of tangled title property issues.

8. What are the next steps?

If you are an organization interested in submitting information about your organization and a Pilot Initiative, you should immediately reach out to Shana Jones at shanaj@uga.edu. She will send you the online form to complete. Shana has been retained by the Funders Forum sponsors to develop the Briefing Book, which will be used by funders who attend the Forum. The proposals are to be delivered electronically via this [link](#). If you have any questions after reviewing the online forms please submit them via email to shanaj@uga.edu. Shana cannot provide you with advice or direction about what kind of initiative you should propose, and she is not evaluating, grading, or ranking submissions. As noted above, each funding organization will have different goals and application processes. She also will not be able to answer questions about who will be in attendance or their funding guidelines.