



Approved by the Board 2 September 2020.

Updated and Approved by the Board 3rd December 2020.

## CONTEXT

Civil society organizations with robust datasets are eager to contribute to the OAR but the cost of the OAR API services prevents some organizations from leveraging these tools to keep their data current. The OAR would therefore like to offer these API services for free, or at a discounted rate, to those organizations which meet the established criteria.

## CRITERIA

To be eligible for free or discounted use of the API services, the organization must meet the following criteria:

- Organization must hold a nonprofit, academic or research designation and be working towards a mission that seeks to address social, humanitarian, or environmental challenges
- Organization must be self-governing. The Board of the organization cannot be made up of corporate interests, or hold a majority of representatives from any one organization.
- Organization must agree to abide by the Open Apparel Registry Web [Terms of Use](#)
- Use of OAR data must be focused in one or more of the following areas
  - Workers Rights and Labor Organizing
  - Modern Day Slavery / Human Trafficking or Migration
  - Environmental Protection or Justice
  - Animal Welfare
  - Transparency
  - Circularity
  - Other sustainability focused research topics - agreed on a case-by-case basis



- Demonstrated need, such as:
  - Organization operates on a restricted budget and/or relies mainly on grant funding
  - Organization does not have sufficient funds to pay for connection to the push-pull API
  
- Organization has clear needs for OAR data to enable them to conduct their work more effectively, to meet the needs set out above
  
- Use of the data:
  - Organization must commit to free or discounted and public use in line with the OAR's open data policies
    - Must abide by principles of open data in sharing any output from OAR API use (data licensed under creative commons license or other similar standard)
    - Data gathered from the OAR through the free API connection must not be used for commercial profits
    - Share output with the OAR community and Board
      - Participate in a biannual impact showcase
      - Co-develop case study with OAR team
      - Participate in an evaluation interview with Laudes Foundation

### Otherwise

If an organization does not meet all of the above criteria, they are still invited to apply for consideration of a discounted rate. The discount will be determined based on the organization's annual budget, volume of data, their anticipated frequency of uploads and how they plan to make use of OAR data in their work.

### PROCESS:

1. Complete application including
  - a. Example dataset including number of facilities they will upload and frequency of uploads (where applicable)
  - b. Incorporation docs (501c3 or equivalent in other jurisdictions)
  - c. Application questions
    - i. Size of organization
    - ii. Organizational mission



- iii. Demonstrate how the organization will use the API and stay in line with open data principles
    - iv. Examples of recent projects
    - v. Where the organization works
    - vi. Demonstrated impact
    - vii. Technical capabilities of the team
  - d. Budget / proof of annual revenue
  - e. Commitment to open data principles
2. Reviewed by OAR team
  - a. If the OAR team is uncertain on whether or not to grant free / discounted use of the API, Board committee is asked to review application
3. Approved / not approved or discount offered
4. Onboarding call scheduled

Applications will be submitted through a Google Form directly to the OAR team. The OAR team will review each application together within two weeks of the submission, making a decision based on the criteria set out in this policy. Where the OAR team is unable to reach a decision, a Board committee will be asked for their advice.

**ACCESS REVOCATION:**

*Use of the API must begin within 6 months of the free access being granted, otherwise the free access will be revoked*

**INSTANCES RELATING TO BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS FOR FREE / DISCOUNTED API ACCESS**

The OAR has a multi-stakeholder Board of Directors, including representatives from civil society organizations, specifically:

- Awaj Foundation
- Clean Clothes Campaign
- Worker Rights Consortium

In anticipation that free / discounted access to the OAR may be requested by any of these organizations, the OAR team must request approval of the application from two members of the Board of Directors who are not representatives from these organizations.