



Invites Proposals for the 2018 Environmental Education Program

Grant Deadlines

Online application opens: October 1, 2017
Application due: December 1, 2017
Grant award notification: Mid-February 2018

Statement of Purpose

The Gray family has long been supporters of environmental education beginning with John and Betty Gray. Since 2012, the family's legacy has continued through the Gray Family Foundation (Gray FF) as it has supported students and teachers in connecting with outdoor environments through a variety of environmental literacy experiences. The Gray Family Foundation's Environmental Education program seeks to promote the inclusion of environmental education in K-12 environments and increase outdoor experiences for youth. As a result of our investments in environmental education across Oregon, we anticipate:

- more active youth stewardship of our natural and built communities,
- the systematic integration of environmental education in the K-12 system,
- an increase of quality environmental education services by non-profits and programs to their communities,
- and, that the field of environmental education will increasingly reflect the diverse populations of Oregon.

Eligibility

We will consider proposals submitted by schools, districts, colleges, government agencies or 501(c)3 non-profit organizations serving Oregon. Any sponsored programs should align with the applying organization's mission. For additional questions, [please contact Gray FF staff](#).

Scope of Proposals Sought

The Gray Family Foundation seeks proposals that stimulate or promote the teaching of environmental education in K-12 environments and increase outdoor experiences for youth. Gray FF will fund proposals that best demonstrate alignment with Gray FF's priorities and reflect our values towards diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI).

Gray FF's Environmental Education program priorities seek to increase:

- Diversity of students and communities engaged in outdoor and environmental education learning experiences.

- Educators' (K-12 teachers, administrators and informal educators) preparedness to integrate EE across subjects.
- Environmental educators' preparedness to support K-12 needs utilizing best practices and rigor.
- K-12 professionals' preparedness to use the natural and built community and systems as a context for learning.
- K-12 students' ability to collaborate, problem solve and apply critical thinking to local and global environmental issues.
- K-12 students' preparedness for success in careers inside and outside of the environmental field through increased participation in environmental education.

In 2018, we will be hosting both planning grants to advance equity in environmental education and environmental education program grants. Gray FF is interested in reviewing proposals for a range of funding levels that best serve the specific needs of your program. Organizations may request planning grants from \$5,000-\$20,000 with the opportunity to apply for programmatic grants in future years. We will consider programmatic grant requests from \$5,000-\$25,000 per year to support student field experiences for 3rd through 8th grade students and/or educator professional development. Program applicants may request multi-year funding pending annual grant renewals through the 2019-2020 school year. Programs requesting multi-year funding will be responsible for securing increasing matching funds in years two and three of the program as Gray FF will reduce its funding from year to year by 20%. (e.g., \$10,000 year one, \$8,000 year two, \$6,400 year three).

Reporting Requirements

The Gray Family Foundation appreciates the opportunity to bear witness to your successes and lessons learned. Annually you will be expected to complete an [online grant report](#) as a final report or renewal of funds for multi-year grantees. This report will be brief and include the progress you made in your program's identified goals. Future funding requests and annual renewals will not be considered without timely reporting.

Questions?

More information about Gray FF grants programs can be found on our website www.grayff.org.

If you have other questions, you may contact the Gray Family Foundation at 503-552-3511 or grants@grayff.org.

Planning Grants

It is a priority for the Gray FF Environmental Education Program that the field of environmental education will increasingly reflect the diverse populations of Oregon. We are pleased to invite environmental education, culturally specific organizations, schools and other academic institutions to apply for a planning grant to help us advance this vision. A planning grant may be used to support partnership development, program planning, needs assessment, and other work to lay the foundation for implementing environmental education programs that will increasingly engage the diverse populations of Oregon and represent the diverse perspectives, traditions, knowledge and relationships all people in Oregon bring as active stewards of their natural and built environment.

Preference will be given to proposals that commit:

- Dedicated staff time;
- Service to communities of color or historically marginalized populations;
- And, partnering with a complimenting organization that brings different strengths, assets and insights.

Planning grant expectations:

- Designate an individual and organization who will be the lead contact during the planning process;
- Convene partners and stakeholders on a regular basis for collaborative planning;
- Stay in regular communication with Gray FF staff regarding progress, additional needs, etc.;
- And, apply for Gray FF or other funding opportunities in the future to support the implementation of the planned program

Application Procedure

Planning grant applicants may submit a proposal through an online system which will be available via our [website](#) on **October 1, 2017**. The online application will require submitting brief organizational background(s), a project description (no more than two pages in length, minimum 12-point font, single spaced), a project timeline, a detailed project budget, letter of support from partner organization (if applicable) and most recent financial statement for the grantee.

Specific questions to address in your project description (required):

1. Describe the anticipated components of your planning process and the primary goals you hope to accomplish during the planning process. Please include such information as a process for completing a needs assessment and how you intend to convene stakeholders.
2. How will leadership be shared during this planning grant period? Describe the collaborative process you expect to use.
3. Please tell us what you currently know about your region's environmental education opportunities for students from traditionally marginalized communities (i.e. students navigating poverty, students of color, other abled students, etc.).
4. Please tell us the types of technical assistance you might anticipate would assist your planning process.

[Please contact Gray FF](#) for assistance or clarification on any part of the application process or if you require submitting your request in an alternative format than described.

Review Process

Proposals will be reviewed by a volunteer committee that will make recommendations for funding to the Gray FF board. Programs will be reviewed and scored using the following criteria:

- Alignment with Gray FF's Environmental Education program priorities
- Evidence of shared leadership between partners, stakeholders and community through a collaborative planning process
- Willingness to examine, challenge and change assumptions and practices that may reinforce inequities amongst community's and students' experiences
- Commitment to respect and amplify the diverse perspectives, traditions, knowledge and relationships all people in Oregon bring as active stewards of their natural and built environments
- Equitable distribution of grant funds to partners

Planning Grant Timeline

| Significant Dates | Significant Activities/Deadlines | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| September 2017 | RFP Released | |
| December 1, 2017 | Applications Due | |
| February 2018 | Implement Planning Grant | Grant Award Notifications |
| November 2018 | | Planning Grant Report Due |
| December 1, 2018 | 2019 Program Applications Due | |

Programmatic Grants

The Gray Family Foundation seeks proposals that stimulate or promote the teaching of environmental education in K-12 environments and increase outdoor experiences for youth. Program funding can support student field experiences for 3rd through 8th grade students and/or educator professional development. The foundation will select programs that most closely align with Gray FF's Environmental Education program priorities (see 'Scope of Proposals Sought').

Preference will be given to proposals that commit:

- Dedicated staff time
- Demonstrated K-12 administrative and/or partner buy-in via a letter of support
- Expertise in environmental education, K-12 instruction, or community culture
- Service to communities of color or historically marginalized populations
- Additional contributed or earned support documented in the program budget (i.e. grants, business or individual donations, in-kind, program revenue, etc.)

Funding is not eligible to support:

- summer camp or day camp programs
- student learning experiences outside the targeted 3th-8th grades
- organizations that have received three consecutive years of Gray FF funding for environmental education
- capital campaigns, site improvements or acquisitions of land
- purchases or activities that occur prior to grant decision
- deficit funding or elimination of operating deficits
- annual fund appeals or endowment funds
- religious activities
- grants or loans to individuals

Programmatic grant expectations:

- Timely and complete [annual reporting](#).
- Participation in a Gray FF Environmental Education Convening in 2019 for multi-year grantees; date TBD (support will be provided by the foundation to cover participation)
- Participation in one grant review cycle as a Gray FF grant review committee member (commitment 8-16 hours)

Application Procedure

Programmatic grant applicants may submit a proposal through an online system which will be available via our website on **October 1, 2017**. The online application will require submitting brief organizational and program backgrounds, a program description (no more than three pages in length, minimum 12-point font, single spaced), a project timeline, a detailed project budget ([recommended template provided](#)), letter(s) of support (if applicable) and most recent financial statements for the grantee.

Specific narrative questions (required):

1. What do you hope to accomplish through this program?
2. Describe the program including how it meets Gray FF's priorities for funding including diversity, equity, and inclusion.

3. How does this program support your organization's goals and build upon your staff and organization's strengths?
4. What was your process for researching and designing your approach?
5. How will you know the project has been successful?

If you have submitted for additional grant support from other organizations, Gray FF will accept and review another organization's application in substitute of our own. Please [contact Gray FF staff](#) if this is the case or if you have any questions.

Review Process

Proposals will be reviewed by a volunteer committee that will make recommendations for funding to the Gray FF board. Programs will be reviewed and scored using the following criteria:

1. Excellence. Programs which show significant promise of excellence and impact on students. We seek programs that employ best practices related to their intended activities.

In evaluating proposals that include **student field experiences**, we seek programs that:

- ✓ Provide direct experiences addressing local and global environmental issues
- ✓ Are academically and emotionally appropriate for the intended audience
- ✓ Align to state and/or national standards
- ✓ Foster student's knowledge, attitudes, skills, and behaviors towards environmental systems and issues
- ✓ Extend learning from the field to the classroom and the classroom to the field
- ✓ Make use of interdisciplinary instruction to extend beyond environmental science to include social science, arts, and other subjects as appropriate
- ✓ Employ culturally appropriate strategies for engaging diverse audiences
- ✓ Demonstrates support from K-12 administration in the form of a letter of support

In evaluating proposals that include **educator professional development**, we seek programs that:

- ✓ Improve educators' ability to integrate EE across subject areas including science, social science, and arts
- ✓ Prepare K-12 professionals to utilize the natural and built community and systems as a context for learning
- ✓ Promote the use of best practices in environmental education such as project-based learning, cooperative learning strategies, service learning and inquiry-based instruction
- ✓ Enables educators to understand and articulate the benefits of environmental education to K-12 environments
- ✓ Demonstrates support from K-12 administration for any proposed professional development for K-12 educators in the form of a letter of support

2. Project Feasibility and Fit. Lead organization demonstrates capacity to carry out the program including an appropriate budget, clarity of goals and design, support from leadership and appropriate qualifications of the program's personnel. Lead organization may utilize partners through new and existing educational networks to carry out the work.

3. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Programs that represent considerations of DEI such as:
- ✓ Shared leadership between partners, stakeholders and community
 - ✓ Willingness to examine, challenge and change assumptions and practices that may reinforce inequities amongst community's and students' experiences
 - ✓ Programs that respect and amplify the diverse perspectives, traditions, knowledge and relationships all people in Oregon bring as active stewards of their natural and built environments
 - ✓ Equitable distribution of grant funds to partners
 - ✓ Creative private/public partnerships to address disparities amongst communities

Timeline

| Year | School Year | Grant Year | Significant Activities/Deadlines |
|------|----------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| 2017 | Sept 2017 | September 2017 | RFP Released |
| | | December 2017 | Applications Due |
| 2018 | June 2018 | February 2018 | Grant Receipt |
| | | December 2018 | Renewal Request |
| | September 2018 | February 2019 | Renewal Notification |
| 2019 | June 2019 | December 2019 | Renewal Request |
| | September 2019 | February 2020 | Renewal Notification |
| 2020 | June 2020 | August 2020 | Final Program Report |

Programmatic Delivery