



The Gray Family Foundation *Invites Proposals for the* **2017 Geography Education Program**

Grant Deadlines

Online application opens: Thursday, December 1, 2016

Due date for applications: Friday, January 20, 2017

Grants awarded: May 2017

NOTE: There will not be an open RFP for 2018 Geography Education Grant Cycle

Statement of Purpose

Since 2007, the Gray Family has supported students and teachers in connecting with outdoor environments through a variety of environmental literacy experiences. The goal of the Gray Family Foundation's (Gray FF) geography grant program is to spark the creativity, talent, and vision of Oregon's formal and informal teachers, schools and districts, and communities to stimulate and promote the integration of geographic concepts and ideas into K-12 curriculum and instruction.

Gray FF, through our Geography Education Program, will award grants to projects that help students develop a command of geographic tools and perspectives, foster a sense of place in their local and global community and prepare them to engage in a way that sustains Oregon's natural and built communities.

Up to \$200,000 is available this year from Gray FF for projects that align closest with our goals and objectives. We will consider grant requests from \$5,000-\$30,000 per year for projects one to three years in duration. Gray FF is interested in reviewing proposals for a range of funding levels that best serve the specific needs of the project.

Eligibility

We will consider proposals submitted by schools, districts, colleges, or 501(c)3 non-profit organizations serving Oregon. Any sponsored projects 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 geography in K-12 environments. Project funding may be spent over a period of 1 to 3 years, with yearly renewal reporting requirements. Highest preference will be given to programs/projects that support student learning experiences however consideration will also be given to teacher professional development opportunities.

The foundation will give priority to projects that seek to increase:

- Students' practice of geography skills, tools and perspectives;

- Geography instructional time and student participation in Geography learning experiences;
- Instructional time spent out of the traditional classroom;
- Interdisciplinary instruction of Geography;
- And, the use of existing geography education resources available.

Not all of the following elements are required, but preference will be given to proposals that demonstrate:

- Dedicated staff and volunteer time;
- Administrative support;
- Expertise in Geography or K-12 instruction;
- Willingness and strategies to share successes, challenges and any products developed in the course of the project with peers; and
- Methods for evaluating and reporting on their project.

There is no match requirement for year one of a project however projects requesting multi-year funding will be responsible for securing additional matching funds in years two (30% match) and three (60% match) of the program.

Application Procedure and Review Process

Geography Education Program applicants may submit a proposal through an online system which will be available via our website on **December 1, 2016**. The on-line application will require submitting brief organizational and project backgrounds, program descriptions, narrative questions, a project timeline and a detailed project budget ([template provided](#)). Awards will be granted in advance of the 2017-2018 school year.

Specific narrative questions (required):

1. What do you hope to accomplish through this project?
2. How does this program support your organization's goals and build upon your staff and organization's strengths?
3. What was your process for researching and designing your particular approach?
4. How will you know the project has been successful?

Review Process

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

1. **Excellence.** Projects show significant promise of excellence and impact on students through:
 - ✓ Programs rooted in best practice for student learning or teacher professional development [as appropriate] (i.e. interdisciplinary, appropriate contact hours, proven learning models, etc.).
 - ✓ A holistic approach to geography education that includes geographic perspectives, knowledge and skills.
 - ✓ Consideration of all aspects of place—natural, built, technological, and social (economic, political, cultural, historical, aesthetic).
 - ✓ Emphasis on the link of civic engagement today to consequences for tomorrow.
 - ✓ Opportunities for direct experiences beyond the classroom with local, regional and global places.
2. **Project Feasibility and Fit.** Lead organization demonstrates capacity to carry out the project including an appropriate budget, clarity of project goals and design, support from leadership and

appropriate qualifications of the project's personnel. Lead organization may utilize partners through new and existing educational networks to carry out the work.

3. **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.** Projects that bring greater levels of equity, diversity, and inclusion to the program such as:
 - ✓ Projects focused specifically on reducing socioeconomic, geographic, and racial inequities in student success.
 - ✓ Projects that foster innovative public/private relationships and that serve low-income communities and communities of color.

Reporting Requirements

The Gray Family Foundation appreciates the opportunity to bear witness to your successes and lessons learned. At the end of your grant, you will be expected to complete an online grant report. This report will be brief and include the progress you made in addressing the Gray Family Foundations priorities (listed in "Scope of Proposals Sought") and your project's identified goals. Future funding requests and annual renewals of multi-year funds 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.

Anti-Discrimination Policy: The Gray Family Foundation does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, gender, religion, national origin, political or union affiliation, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, or any other protected status recognized by local, state or federal law. Grant recipients must hold similar standards.