



## Gray Family Foundation 2021 Geography Education Grant Program

### Grant Deadlines

Applications accepted beginning March 8, 2021

Due date for applications: April 16, 2021

Grants awarded: By May 28, 2021

### Funds Available

Up to 16 grants of \$5,000/each for individual educators (with an identified fiscal sponsoring organization). Educators can work collaboratively and request the amount aligned with the number of educators involved (i.e. a group of three educators may request \$15,000). Educators must serve primarily Oregon students.

### Statement of Purpose

The goal of the Gray Family Foundation's 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. Through fostering a sense of place for children, youth, and educators in their local and global community, we hope to prepare them to be active stewards of Oregon's communities and natural environments.

Gray Family Foundation will award grants to projects that align with our priority objectives:

- 1) Improve students' practice of geography skills, tools, and perspectives;
- 2) Support interdisciplinary instruction of Geography as a foundation for instruction of other subjects;
- 3) Increase student participation in geography learning experiences, with a focus on those that reflect all voices and cultures impacted by Oregon's geography.

### 2021 Grant Opportunity – Formal and Informal Educator Innovation Grants

In 2020, students, educators, and families across Oregon faced and overcame a myriad of challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and wildfires. Recognizing and honoring the significant ways educators have been innovating to help students understand and navigate this complicated time, in 2021 Gray Family Foundation is offering grants to support educators in the development of instructional resources that use the power of geography to help students explore and understand the challenges facing our local communities.

Grants of \$5,000 per educator will be available to support these efforts. Examples of instructional resources can include, but are not limited to: Curricula, lesson plans, virtual field trips, readers, supporting technologies, and other resources that can help support the integration of geography lessons, methods, tools and strategies into Oregon classrooms.

Gray Family Foundation asks that the resulting resources be made available to other educators throughout the state via the Center for Geography Education website and/or other open source resources for educators (i.e. Oregon Department of Education Open Source website). In lieu of submitting a final report, funded educators or groups of educators will also be asked to share their project and experiences at the 2022 Center for Geography Education GeoFest. More details will be shared upon receiving the grant award.

### Application Guidelines

- Educators (with an associated organization or school sponsor) can request up to \$5,000 each to support work to be completed between May 2021-May 2022. Gray Family Foundation has funds to support up to 16 individual educators working in communities across Oregon.
- Educators must work or intend to work with Oregon youth/students in 2021/22 and the resulting instructional materials should directly benefit the learning of Oregon youth.
- Educators should consider leveraging the [National Geographic Learning Framework](#) or [Geo-Inquiry Process](#) as part of the development of their instructional materials or resources.
- Potential topics or focus areas for the instructional materials should center on current challenges and opportunities facing local communities in Oregon. The strongest proposals will also use these instructional materials to elevate or highlight perspectives that may not traditionally highlighted in current social studies, science, or other curriculum – such as issues facing rural communities, environmental justice, geo-civics, etc.
  - a. Examples include are not limited to: Developing instructional materials or resources to support meeting the new Ethnic Studies Standards and/or implementation of lessons developed from Senate Bill 13 (Tribal History/Tribal Narrative), lessons or materials addressing current environmental challenges (wildfires, climate), and/or use of technology tools (i.e. Arc-GIS) for geographic inquiry into local or regional topics.
- Applications should consider potential for replicability and scalability – including potential use by other educators and/or educational institutions. Additional funds may be available in 2022 to support expansion or continuation of projects.
- Applicants may use 100 percent of the budget as compensation for the time they devote to the project as well as any time of any collaborators.
  - a. If applicants are leveraging resources or support from members of communities (i.e. Tribal citizens) Gray Family Foundation strongly encourages including compensation for their efforts.
  - b. Funds may also be used to purchase technology tools, software, or other resources that will help educators with the development and implementation of the project.

- Gray Family Foundation is unable to make awards directly to individuals. Applicants should work with an affiliated institution (school/organization) to get approval as a fiscal agent to support work on this project. If individuals need help identifying a potential fiscal agent they can contact Gray Family Foundation ([nell.tessman@grayff.org](mailto:nell.tessman@grayff.org)) for support.

### **Budget Guidelines**

- Funds can be used to support the time dedicated by an educator/educator(s) to research and develop the proposed instructional materials.
- Funds may also be used for the purchases of associated materials, resources, technology, and contracted services to complete the development of the instructional materials and/or to effectively implement the use of the materials/resources in the classroom.
- Gray Family Foundation cannot make grants directly to individuals. Applicants will need to identify a sponsoring organization (school, district, district foundation, STEM Hub, Center for Geography Education, etc) to support the project.
- Gray Family Foundation's general fund use restrictions will apply, and organizations won't be able to use funds for:
  - Capital campaigns, site improvements, or acquisitions of land.
  - Purchases or activities that occur prior to the grant decision.
  - Deficit funding or the elimination of operating deficits.
  - Annual fund appeals or endowment funds.
  - Religious activities.
  - Grants or loans to individuals.

### **Reporting Requirements**

- In lieu of a written report, educators or groups of educators will be asked to present their instructional materials and experiences at the 2022 Center for Geography Education GeoFest or similar. Educators will also be asked to make their resources available to others via the Center for Geography Education website and/or the Oregon Department of Education's Open Source website.
- Sponsoring organizations will also be asked to submit an updated financial report with the completion of the project.

### **How to Apply**

Please submit the following four items to [grants@grayff.org](mailto:grants@grayff.org) by April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

#### **1) Cover Sheet that includes:**

- Sponsoring Organization or School Name:
- Organization or School Primary Contact:
- Organization or School Primary Contact Phone and Email:
- Lead Educator Name:
- Phone:
- Address:
- Email Address:
- Tax ID of Organization or School:
- *Note:* If you are applying as the lead educator that is part of a collaborative, please include name and email for the other educators as well.

## 2) Project Summary

Please provide a short **1-2 page project summary** to [grants@grayff.org](mailto:grants@grayff.org) that responds to the following questions. Word, PDF, or other format is acceptable. If you prefer to provide this info in a different format or have already prepared responses to these questions for another funder (presentation, video, etc.) that is welcome. Please contact [ntessman@grayff.org](mailto:ntessman@grayff.org) with any questions.

1. Please provide a summary of your proposed project/program and how it aligns with the goals of this initiative.
2. Please describe how you will accomplish your project, including the methods you will use to complete your project. Please include a brief timeline and who will you anticipate will benefit from the instructional resources (i.e. number of students potentially reached, grade levels, etc).
3. Please describe the instructional deliverables you plan to develop and your plan for sharing them or making them accessible to other educators.
4. Please describe your qualifications (experience and expertise as an educator, as well as lived experience). If you are working as a team, please include qualifications for all educators.
5. If applicable, please describe any partners you plan to work with and your plan for engaging them. Please include how or if you plan to compensate them for their contributions.

## 3) Budget(s)

Your budget request may be \$5,000 per involved educator. If you are working as a group you may request funds reflecting the total number of educators (i.e. a group of three educators may request \$15,000). Budgets will include costs that directly support the project and reflect the instructional deliverables to be produced. If you need an example budget template, [you can find one here..](#)

Please note: **Sponsoring organizations, schools, or districts are limited to 5% or less of overhead/administrative cost on the budget. If you have questions about this, please reach out.**

Examples of budget line items that might be applicable to projects include:

- Reimbursement for your reported time and the time of any co-creators (Note: this may represent 100% of the budget request)
- Substitute teacher costs for teacher collaboration, planning, and convening
- Dependent care related to work on the project

## 4) Letter from the Sponsoring Organization, School, or District

Please include a brief letter from the sponsoring organization/school/district acknowledging willingness to accept funds and support your completion of this project.

## **Review Process**

Applications are due to [grants@grayff.org](mailto:grants@grayff.org) by April 16<sup>th</sup>. Applications will be reviewed by the Gray Family Foundation Geography Education Committee members for alignment with the program priorities and the Gray Family Foundation Board of Directors will make final decisions on the awards.

Awarded applicants will be notified by May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

## **Questions**

If you have questions about completing your application, eligibility, or require any additional support, please feel free to contact Nell Tessman, Program Officer, at [ntessman@grayff.org](mailto:ntessman@grayff.org) or at 503-552-3500.