



We are invested in you.

March 24, 2020

To our grantees:

We are invested in you.

In these extraordinary times, we want you to know that we are here to do our part as we navigate through these uncertain times.

Over the past week, speaking with many of you, we've been inspired by your resiliency, innovation, and commitment to communities across Oregon. We want you to know that we are deeply invested in your success and the longevity of your organization. We support your organizations because Gray Family Foundation admires, trusts, and believes in your work. We also recognize that the situations you each face are unique and require flexibility and adaptability.

This past weekend, Gray Family Foundation's Board of Directors approved some key decisions to provide you, our grantees, the maximum flexibility allowed within each of our grant programs. We've shared these updates via email with grantees and they are all included here.

Environmental Education Grantees: Current environmental education grant awards can be converted to general operating support, with the long-term goal of advancing and sustaining your efforts to support your environmental education programming and the staff that support that.

Geography Education Grantees: For those of you currently applying for renewals by April 1st, we are happy to accept verbal conversations/check-in, in lieu of written reports.

Please reach out to Nell (ntessman@grayff.org) and schedule time to chat about the status of your project and plans by April 17th. Nell will also be reaching out over the next several weeks to schedule time to connect if we don't hear from you.

For any organization where geography education is a key priority and core to your mission, we are able to allow you to use your remaining and new funds for general operating support.

For any organization where geography education is not a key priority but a specific component of the funded project, we are happy to work with you on adjusting the timeline and deliverables in alignment with what you need to fit with your organization's status, priorities, and plans moving forward - please contact us when you have a chance and we can discuss further.

Camp Maintenance Grantees: While the language of the trust requires that these funds be utilized for maintenance projects, we are suspending the matching requirements on current and pending camp maintenance grants. You may use our funds to support your staff to take on maintenance projects that can be completed while the camp facility is closed.

If you were waiting to submit your remaining materials for 2020 funding because of the matching requirements, please feel free to submit as soon as possible. For submissions received by April 15th, we will approve funding by mid-May.

Outdoor School Grantees: For any organization with a planning grant for outdoor school, where outdoor school is a key priority and core to your mission, we are able to allow you to use your remaining and new funds for general operating support.

For any organization who received funds to send current 5th or 6th graders to outdoor school, we are happy to work with you on adjusting the timeline and deliverables in alignment with what you need to fit with your organization's priorities and plans moving forward - please just contact us when you have a chance and we can discuss further. We will allow you to use these funds to send the current 5th or 6th graders to outdoor school next fall (as 6th or 7th graders) or apply it to an equivalent program. It may also be reallocated for outdoor school during the 2020/21 school year.

Grant reporting deadlines: We value your time and understand that you are focused on your organization right now. We are providing maximum flexibility on reporting. We will be reaching out to those with reports due over the next weeks and will work with you to extend reporting deadlines or do a phone check-in with you.

Support for Oregon's nonprofit community: Oregon funders have gathered together to create response funds. As a supporting organization of Oregon Community Foundation, we want to make sure you are aware of the [Oregon Community Foundation COVID-19 Recovery Fund](#).

And, we are joining others in the philanthropic community to advocate for all nonprofits in this time of crisis. We have signed the [Council on Foundations Philanthropy Commitment During the COVID-19 Pledge](#) committing to our community of grantees and those hardest hit by this crisis.

While we can no longer gather physically, we are all in this together. As time passes and the pandemic and its impact evolve, Gray Family Foundation hopes to continue to hear from you about how it is affecting your organization and community. We will also continue to assess and update our actions to help support you. We are invested in you. We believe in you.

Be well!
Nancy Bales, Executive Director
Nell Tessman, Program Officer



The Gray Family Foundation is founded on the belief that fostering an understanding and appreciation of our natural world is a crucial part of a child's education. By supporting programs such as Outdoor School, geography education and professional development for teachers, we seek to give Oregon students a greater understanding of the world outside their classroom. Learn more at www.grayff.org

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