



Gray Family Foundation 2022 Geography Education Grant Program

Grant Deadlines

Applications accepted beginning January 14, 2022

Due date for applications: March 11, 2022

Grants awarded: By mid-May 2022

Funds Available

In 2022, we have \$200,000 in new funding available to support organization and educator grants. We anticipate awarding up to six organization grants of \$25,000 each as well as 5-7 educator grants of approximately \$5,000. Both types of projects should primarily serve/benefit Oregon students and use the power of geography to help students explore and understand challenges facing our local communities.

Statement of Purpose

The goal of the Gray Family Foundation's geography grant program is to foster a sense of place for children, youth, and educators in their local and global community.

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 in 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.

Through this grant opportunity, we hope to support organizations, programs, and projects that prepare youth to be active stewards of Oregon's communities and natural environments.

2022 Grant Opportunity – Geography Education Innovation Grants

Students, educators, and families across Oregon continue to be faced with a myriad of challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and wildfires. Recognizing and honoring the significant ways community-based organizations, schools, and educators have been innovating to help students understand and navigate this complicated time, Gray Family Foundation is offering grants to support organizations, schools, and educators in the development or implementation of instructional resources, projects, and programs that use the power of geography to help students explore and understand the challenges facing our local communities.

Application Guidelines

We are offering two different grant options in 2022:

Organization Grants: Gray Family Foundation has up to \$150,000 available for projects that align closest with this grant program's goals and our commitment to equity and inclusion.

- Organizations, school districts and schools can request funding of \$5,000 - \$25,000/year for up to three years for projects or programs that stimulate or promote the teaching of geography in K-12 environments in Oregon.
- Project funding may be requested for a period of one to three years, with yearly renewal reporting requirements. Subsequent year grants will be based on this reporting and board approval.
- Highest preference will be given to programs/projects that support student learning experiences that use an equity/inclusion lens to examine Oregon's people and places impacted by geography. Consideration will also be given to teacher professional development opportunities.
- We will give priority to projects that seek to increase:
 - Students' practice of geography skills, tools and perspectives;
 - Interdisciplinary instruction of Geography;
 - Geography instructional time and student participation in Geography learning experiences that reflect all voices and cultures impacted by Oregon's geography;
 - Not all of the following elements are required, but preference will be given to proposals that:
 - Increase instructional time spent outside of the traditional classroom;
 - Promote experiential education opportunities;
 - Utilize a geographic lens to examine issues impacting currently and historically marginalized communities across Oregon;
 - Integrate methods for supporting youth development/youth leadership in projects;
 - Document staff expertise in Geography or K-12 instruction;
 - Highlight methods for evaluating, reporting, and sharing lessons learned from their project.

Educator Grants

- Educators (with an associated organization or school sponsor) can request up to \$5,000 each to support work to be completed between May 2022-May 2023. Gray Family Foundation has funds to support up to 7 individual educators working in communities across Oregon.
- Educators must work or intend to work with Oregon youth/students in 2022/23 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.
- 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. Examples of past successful applications can be accessed [here](#).
- 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.
 - 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.
 - 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) for support.

Budget Guidelines

Applicants can use their own budget template or can use our budget template that can be found at: <https://grayff.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Gray-FF-Budget-Template-Update-111020.xlsx>.

Organization Grants

Funds are typically used to support:

- Dedicated staff time;
- Training and professional development for educators;
- Costs associated with developing and implementing curriculum (e.g. classroom materials, books);
- Costs associated with related learning experiences outside the classroom;
- Costs associated with developing and/or integrating geography technology tools or curriculum into programming;
- Administrative support.

Educator Grants

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 up to \$15,000).

Budgets will include costs that directly support the project and reflect the instructional deliverables to be produced.

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
- Time dedicated by an educator/educator(s) to research and develop the proposed instructional materials.
- 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.
- Honorariums for Indigenous/Native educators or consultants or other peers supporting/informing this work.

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.

General Budget Guidelines

- Gray Family Foundation's general fund use restrictions will apply, and organization funds cannot be used 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

Gray Family Foundation appreciates the work of our grantee organizations and wants to ensure organization staff are able to dedicate time to projects versus meeting complex reporting requirements. In lieu of a formal written report, organizations and educators will be asked to provide a verbal update at the end of the grant period using simple questions that can be found in the report template on our website here: <https://grayff.org/grants/grantee-reporting/>. Organizations and educators may also submit a written report if that is preferred.

Projects that result in the creation of teacher modules, new curricula, or lesson plans will also be asked to upload the resources on to the Oregon Department of Education's open-source curricula website and/or encouraged to record teacher modules to be shared with other educators. Award letters will include more details on these reporting expectations.

How to Apply

Geography Education Program applicants may submit a proposal through the Oregon Community Foundation's MyOCF online system which will be available via a link on our website by January 15, 2022. Previous applicants for our Geography Education Grant that have **not** also applied for an Oregon Community Foundation grant will need to create a new account.

The online application will require completing an online form including basic organization questions (primary contact information, address, Tax ID, etc.) and an upload of narrative questions (also included below). You will also be required to upload a project/program budget (<https://grayff.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Gray-FF-Budget-Template-Update-111020.xlsx>), organization financials (most recent audited financials if available or end-of-year financial statements for last year) as well as provided the opportunity to upload letters of support (optional).**

**If you are using a fiscal sponsor (or and educator applying with the support of a school/STEM Hub/etc.) we also request a letter from the sponsoring organization, school, or district acknowledging willingness to accept funds and support your completion of this project.

Also please note that the MyOCF system is set up primarily for nonprofit organizations. If you are an educator and need support with MyOCF please contact our Program Officer at ntessman@grayff.org.

Project Summary

(Note: There are no character limits, however we recommend keeping the total length of narrative to no more than 3-4 single-spaced pages in 12 pt. font).

1. **Summary:** Please provide a summary of your proposed project/program and how it aligns with the goals of the Geography Education Grant Program outlined in this RFP.
2. **Process:** Please describe how you will accomplish your project, including the methods you will use to complete your project and a brief timeline.

3. **Goals:** Please describe what you hope to achieve by the end of the grant period. This includes any deliverables you plan to develop, who will you anticipate will benefit from your programming or resources (i.e. number of students or educators potentially reached, grade levels, etc) and how those individuals have been involved in informing your project goals. Please also share any plans for sharing your deliverables or activities with others.
4. **Opportunity:** Please describe what makes your project or request unique. What unique need or opportunity are you addressing through your project? How would you differentiate this project from others in your community? For example, are you increasing access where there is none? Are you reaching a unique set of youth or community members? Is your project building on previous work that will build the capacity of your organization?
5. **Qualifications/Experience:** Please briefly describe your qualifications as educators and/or organizations in supporting geography education, K-12 education, or other related work (experience and expertise as educators, lived experiences, knowledge of communities, etc.). Please also describe any resources, consultants, or organizations that may help inform your work.
6. **Partners:** 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.

Review Process

Applications should be submitted on MyOCF by March 15, 2022. Applications will be reviewed by the Gray Family Foundation Geography Education Committee members who include representatives with direct experience in K-12 education, geography education, and community-based organizations. Reviewers provide input on application in terms of alignment with the program and Gray Family Foundation priorities. The Gray Family Foundation Board of Directors will make final decisions on the awards.

Awarded applicants will be notified by mid-May 2022.

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 or at 503-552-3500. We will also be offering informational webinars during February to provide additional details about this opportunity. You can find out more information on our website: <https://grayff.org/grants/geography-education/>.