



2014 Grant Program Application and Information

ABOUT

Thanks to a grant from the Turner Foundation, Georgia River Network is pleased to offer grants (\$2,000-\$10,000) to grassroots river groups for projects in Georgia to directly impact high priority problems causing water quality degradation, impaired in-stream flows and/or inefficient use of water through advocacy, campaigns, on the ground project implementation, or legal work. Additionally, we will provide small seed grants (\$500-\$2,000) to grassroots river groups to support the development of their programs to engage their community, understand issues impacting their watershed, and/or address issues in their watershed. Up to \$40,000 will be awarded to grassroots river groups through the grant program.

Applicants who have never received funding through this grant program are required to 1) have a one-on-one project plan consultation with either April Ingle or Jesslyn Shields to discuss the plan of work for the proposed project and 2) attend a Water Words That Work webinar that will focus on the importance and nuts and bolts in developing a communication plan. Applicants who have previously received re-grants are also encouraged to consult with April or Jesslyn and participate in the webinar. The deadline for completing consultations and the date of the webinar is May 16.

Deadline for applications: May 23, 2014.

Funds will be disbursed to grantees by no later than late July. Projects must be completed by May 1 of 2015 and a final report is due by May 15, 2015.

For more information, visit <http://www.garivers.org/protect-your-river/small-grants-program.html> or contact Debra Long at debra@garivers.org or 706-549-4508.

ELIGIBILITY

- The proposed work must take place in Georgia
- The organization must be a grassroots-based river protection group and utilize citizen advocates to achieve its goals
- The organization must have a strategic plan or plan of work developed by the board and staff (if the organization is staffed) that outlines the need for the proposed project
- Applicants that have received previous funding through this program must have completed all previously funded work and turned in required reports on time.
- Applicants that have never received funding through this program must have a one-on-one consultation with either April Ingle or Jesslyn Shields by May 16, 2014 to discuss the proposed project and attend a Water Words That Work (WWTW) webinar that will focus on the importance and nuts and bolts in developing a communication plan on May 16, 2014.

CRITERIA

- Projects must be completed by May 1, 2015. Phases of multi-year projects are acceptable as long as progress can be demonstrated within the year.
- Project proposals should provide data, reference Georgia's 303d list of impaired waters, or other information to demonstrate the problem that will be addressed and why it is a priority.
- Projects must consist of a plan of work that outlines demonstrable impacts the project will have on the problem and how they will be achieved.
- Projects should require a modest investment in order to make a significant impact.

CRITERIA FOR SEED FUNDING

- Projects must be completed by May 1, 2015.
- Project proposals for seed funding should demonstrate organizational need(s) in regards to development of programs to engage your community, understanding issues impacting your watershed, and/or addressing issues in your watershed.
- Project proposals should include a plan of work that outlines impacts the project will have on the organization and watershed and how the project will be achieved.
- Projects should require a modest investment in order to make a significant impact.

SCHEDULING A PROJECT PLANNING CONSULTATION

Applicants who have never received funding through this grant program are required to have a one-on-one project plan consultation with either April Ingle or Jesslyn Shields to discuss the plan of work for the proposed project, demonstrable impacts and how they will be achieved. To schedule a consultation, email or call April (ingle@garivers.org) or Jesslyn (jesslyn@garivers.org) at 706-549-4508. Applicants who have previously received re-grants are also encouraged to consult with April or Jesslyn on their plan of work. Project consultations must be completed by May 16.

WATER WORDS THAT WORK WEBINAR

Applicants who have never received funding through this grant program are required to attend a Water Words That Work "More Than A Message" webinar. In this webinar you will learn how the pros plan their campaigns, measure their accomplishments, and do it even better next time. The webinar will provide big concepts and practical tips you need to plan and carry out your project. Applicants who have previously received re-grants are also encouraged to participate in the webinar. The webinar will take place on Friday, May 16 from 10:00 – 11:30 AM and will be taught by Water Words That Work Consultant, and former Ogeechee Riverkeeper, Chandra Brown. To register for the webinar email Debra Long (debra@garivers.org) with your name, organization and contact information.

PROJECT EXAMPLES

- Implement a project to report NPDES violations and improve enforcement.
- Implement a project to protect or improve stream flows.
- Oppose the construction of a new reservoir or water withdrawal/diversion.
- Implement a campaign to increase mandatory buffer widths, better development site design requirements, enhanced stormwater controls, wetland conservation, or land use planning in a city or county.
- Work with local, regional, or state government to improve a specific policy that is impacting or threatening water quality or quantity in your watershed.

- Implement a project to work with farmers or foresters to: utilize funding programs available to aid in voluntary installation and maintenance of stream buffers or water conservation practices on their agricultural fields/forestry operations; or promote sustainably produced local foods/forest products that protect the landscape, water quality and water supply.
- Implement a campaign to get your local government to pass ordinances that reduce water demand. Examples of ordinances include: require retro-fit on reconnect, prohibit water waste, require rainwater shut-off valves, prohibit HOA's from mandating high-water use landscapes, require efficient process equipment for new development for selected business, require self-closing faucets for new development, or require car washes to recycle water.
- Implement a campaign to get your local government to offer financial incentive programs to help reduce water demand in the residential sector through the replacement of old fixtures with new efficient fixtures including: a low-flow toilet rebate program, trigger shut off valves on hoses, and irrigation system hose timers and moisture sensors.
- Implement a campaign to get your local government to offer financial incentive programs to help reduce water demand in the institutional, commercial, and industrial sectors through the replacement of old fixtures with new efficient fixtures including: a low-flow toilet rebate program, replacement of water-cooled equipment with new air-cooled equipment, process water reclamation systems, air conditioning condensate capture and reuse, elimination of water intensive phases of industrial processes, cooling tower modifications, industrial laundry equipment upgrades, improvements in cleaning processes, restaurant low flow spray nozzles, large efficient commercial dishwashers, air cooled ice machines, or automatic meter reading systems.
- Implement a Get the Dirt Out campaign to engage and train citizens to monitor construction sites, report erosion and sedimentation and buffer violations, and improve enforcement.

PROPOSAL EVALUATION

Proposals will be evaluated on the project criteria listed above and past results if the proposal is from a previous grantee. Projects that do the following will be prioritized for funding:

- Clearly planned, impactful proposals.
- Include components that can be utilized by other organizations and duplicated in other watersheds.
- Funding will fill a gap where other funding isn't available.
- Demonstrate creativity and innovation.
- Have statewide or regional implications.
- Help the organization progress.

AWARD DISTRIBUTION AND REPORTING

Funds will be disbursed to grantees in June or July upon receipt of signed grant contract.

Projects (or funded phases of larger projects) must be completed and a final report submitted by May 15, 2015. A mid-year progress report is due January 15, 2015.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Please address all items below and email proposal to debra@garivers.org. Please attach a copy of your strategic plan or annual plan of work.

Organizational Information

Name of Organization

Contact Name and Title

Address, Phone, Email, Website

Organization Mission

Organization Annual Budget

Federal Tax ID Number

Number of Paid Staff / Number of Board Members (attach a list of board members and staff)

Title of Project and Requested Amount

Grant Request Summary (No more than 100 words)

Briefly summarize the proposed project, including location

Project Need and Description (No more than 1000 words)

- Describe the documented problem that your project will address and how it is impacting or threatening your watershed.
- Provide data, reference Georgia's 303d list of impaired waters, or provide other information to demonstrate the problem that will be addressed and why it is a priority.
- Describe your project plan and how it will specifically impact the problem described. What results and impact will be achieved and how will they be measured? What components can be utilized by other organizations and/or duplicated in other watersheds? How will this funding fill a gap where other funding isn't available? Does the project demonstrate creativity and innovation? Will the project have statewide or regional implications? Will the project help your organization progress?

Seed Grant Project Need and Description (No more than 1000 words)

- Describe the organizational need(s) and/or watershed need(s) the project will address.
- Describe the project and how it will address the need(s). What results and impact will be achieved and how will they be measured? What components can be utilized by other organizations and/or duplicated in other watersheds? How will this funding fill a gap where other funding isn't available? How will the project help your organization progress?
- Describe why the project is a current organizational priority.

Outputs (may be bulleted)

Identify specific deliverables of the project.

Timeline

Include a brief timeline for your project plan, highlighting major milestones and tasks to be accomplished including expected completion dates.

Budget Request

Please attach a project budget and organizational budget for the fiscal year of implementation of this project. Please include the source and amount of any additional funding sources (received and pending), including in-kind funding, in the project budget. If your budget includes lobbying, please break down the anticipated lobbying expenses. Please note that the Georgia River Network and Turner Foundation encourage and support advocacy as long as the organization is following the code set forth by the IRS.

Previous Grants

Applicants that have received previous funding through this program must have completed all previously funded work and turned in required reports in a timely manner. If you have not completed previously funded work please provide an outline of when and how the work will be completed or explanation of why it cannot be completed.

Please direct questions to Debra Long at debra@garivers.org or 706-549-4508. Please email completed application to Debra Long, Georgia River Network, debra@garivers.org.