



2012 Grant Program Application and Information

ABOUT

Thanks to a grant from the Turner Foundation, Georgia River Network is pleased to offer grants for watershed work by grassroots river groups in Georgia to directly impact high priority problems causing water quality degradation, impaired instream flows and/or inefficient use of water through advocacy, campaigns, on the ground project implementation, or legal work. Grants will range from \$2,000 to \$10,000. Up to \$40,000 will be awarded to grassroots river groups through the grant program. Deadline for applications: May 30, 2012 (Not postmarked, received). Funds will be disbursed to grantees in late June. Projects must be completed by May 1 of 2013. For more information, visit <http://www.garivers.org/protect-your-river/small-grants-program.html> or contact Dana Skelton at 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
- The proposal must outline how the project meets the grant criteria, how the measurable objectives will be met, and a project budget
- Applicants that have received previous funding through this program must have completed all previously funded work and turned in required reports on time.

CRITERIA

- Projects must be completed by May 1, 2013. Phases of multi-year projects are acceptable as long as progress can be demonstrated within the year.
- Projects must address documented problems that are most impacting or threatening the watershed, such as water quality problems, inefficient use of water, or impaired instream flows.
- Project proposals should 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.
- Projects should require a modest investment in order to make a significant impact.
- Projects must identify and achieve measurable results.
- Projects must consist of a plan of work that leads to a demonstrable impact on the problem addressed.

EXAMPLES

- 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.

- Implement a project to report NPDES violations and improve enforcement.
- Implement a project to protect or improve instream flows.
- Opposing 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.

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:

- Priority is given to 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 upon receipt of signed grant contract. Projects (or funded phases of larger projects) must be completed and a final report submitted by May 1, 2013. A mid-year progress report is due in February.

PROJECT AND PROPOSAL ASSISTANCE

GRN and American Rivers are offering assistance to watershed groups with developing a campaign or a project plan, writing an effective grant application, or guidance in the implementation of the project. Based on the amount of interest, GRN and American Rivers may not be able to provide immediate assistance to all groups. If you have any questions about this assistance program or wish to request assistance in developing or implementing your project contact Jesslyn at jesslyn@garivers.org.

We encourage groups to send in proposal ideas or call Dana Skelton, grants program manager, to discuss possible projects to make sure you meet the grant criteria. Please request this assistance at least one week before grants are due.

APPLICATION

Please address all items below and email proposal to dana@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)

Title of Project and Requested Amount

Grant Request Summary

Explain the proposed project (No more than 100 words.)

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.
- Please 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 address the need described. What results and impact that 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 you organization progress?

Outputs (may be bulleted)

Identify specific deliverables of the program (i.e. Number or workshops conducted).

Timeline

Include a brief timeline of activities 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. 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 Grant

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 Dana Skelton at dana@garivers.org or 706-549-4508.

Please email completed application to Dana Skelton, Georgia River Network, dana@garivers.org.