

River Friendly Living Grant for Businesses and Organizations

Request for Proposals

The work of Friends of the Verde River (Friends) is rooted in the belief that our communities and our rivers need each other. We value integrity, collaboration, sustainability, and innovation. Friends is committed to the principles of truth, honesty, and respect, including respect for the diverse communities in the Verde River system and those who love this region. Projects may be prioritized by location and/or socioeconomic factors. Priority will be given to projects that support or create sustainable water supply.

Friends of the Verde River invites proposals for small grants (\$5,000 maximum) to build community resilience through sustainable water supply, clean water, healthy habitats, and community connection to the Verde River system.

Funding may be awarded to projects that address one or more of the following focus areas:

- Support or create sustainable water supply (improved infrastructure, increased efficiency, rain harvesting)
- Support clean water initiatives (water quality testing, waste management, chemical management)
- Support healthy habitat (Invasive species treatment, pollinator gardens, erosion control)
- Improve community support and connection to the Verde River and its tributaries. (education & recreation opportunities that improve awareness)

Eligible Applicants:

- Businesses located in the Verde River Watershed, or Salt River Project (SRP) service area that have completed or are pursuing River Friendly Living Certification.
- Nonprofits located in the Verde River Watershed or SRP service area designated under section 501(c)(3). In addition, we will also entertain applications from nonprofits designated under sections 501(c)(4), (5), (6), (7), and (8), with the exception that no group organized for political purposes will be eligible.

- Governmental organizations located in the Verde River Watershed or SRP service area (municipalities, counties, public land managers, conservation districts, public agencies).

This RFP is for one-time, short-term (one year, maximum) projects. Grant requests are limited to a maximum of \$5,000. If you have received a Verde River grant through Friends of the Verde River (or One for the Verde) in the past, you are eligible to apply again once Friends of the Verde River has received documentation of project completion.

The Grant Review Process:

A selection committee comprising local business representatives, key partners, and Friends of the Verde River will meet to select and prioritize worthy projects. In this grant cycle, we will award up to \$40,000 total. Project schedule should not exceed one year.

Funding Cycle:

- Proposals due October 31, 2024, 5:00 pm – Email completed applications to grants@verderiver.org
- Grant awardees notified November 2024
- Awards distributed January 2025

Application Procedures

Please submit your application containing all the items specified below no later than 5:00 pm on October 31, 2024. We will contact you if we have questions or require additional information.

Application Template:

Name of Business or Organization:

Federal EIN:

Mailing Address:

Phone Number:

Project Title:

Authorized Signatory (name, title, email, phone):

Primary Project Manager (name, title, email, phone, if different than above):

Description of Proposed Project (no more than 2,500 words) including:

- Project benefit to the Verde River Watershed (Please reference the focus areas on page 1):
- Project schedule with key milestones:
- Methods for completion:
- Measure(s) of successful completion:
- Project budget (include as an attachment):
- Total project income and expenses, including income from all sources:

- Project income and expenses to paid with this grant:
- Project income and expenses from other sources, expected and secured:
- Detail direct and indirect expenses in the budget:
- Letters of Support (Maximum of two) - Businesses that are not participating in the River Friendly Living program must include a letter of support from the non-profit or Governmental Organization they are partnering with.