Pisces Foundation

Environmental Education Program
Request for Field-Building Projects

The Pisces Foundation is now accepting project inquiries for a round of grants that will range in amount from approximately $5,000 up to $150,000 for a 12-month period.

Overview

The Pisces Foundation announces a new funding opportunity designed to strengthen and build the capacity and cultural relevance of environmental education at scale, recognizing that when kids gain the environmental know-how they need to thrive in our rapidly changing world, we'll see smarter decisions, stronger communities, and daily actions that improve their well-being and our planet.

The Pisces Foundation will award grants to nonprofit organizations and their collaborators that seek to build the capacity, cultural relevance, and professional development of the environmental education field in their given state or region. Eligible nonprofit organizations in this category are often referred to as backbone organizations working to support, strengthen, and further develop the field throughout their region.

Backbone organizations often facilitate collective impact through activities such as: guiding vision and strategy; supporting aligned activities; establishing shared measurement practices; building public will; advancing policy; mobilizing funding; and more. Typical types of backbone organizations include - but are not limited to - networks, alliances, affiliations, associations, and other collaborative and collective impact ventures.

These grants are not designed to fund environmental education programs or organizations to directly serve students, children, families, or individuals. We are seeking to fund impact at the infrastructure level of the field to strengthen the environmental education field as a whole.

Because not every backbone organization has the same capacity, this grant program is designed to support organizations at varying levels of capacity in their work to:

  ▸ **enable** the organization to be more effective (up to $15,000);
  ▸ **organize** network members or stakeholders toward a collective initiative (up to $50,000); or
  ▸ **activate** an initiative that is already enabled and organized but needs the catalytic funding to get to the next stage (up to $150,000).

Example Projects Eligible for Funding

Enable	Organize	Activate
Enable backbone organizations to be more effective	Organize network members or stakeholders toward a collective initiative	Activate an initiative that is already enabled and organized but needs the catalytic funding to get to the next stage

Potential activities under this category include, but are not limited to:

Enable	Organize	Activate
▸ Developing a strategic plan ▸ Planning a convening designed to build field capacity ▸ Creating a governance structure for a Board	▸ Engaging stakeholders to identify a collective initiative that will strengthen and build the capacity for and cultural relevance of environmental education ▸ Providing field-level professional development	▸ Convening a multi-stakeholder collaboration or initiative around an identified goal ▸ Activating regional stakeholder groups toward systemic goals

Amount funded up to:

Enable	Organize	Activate
$15,000	$50,000	$150,000

Timeline

- ▸ Project Inquiry deadline: August 26, 2019, 12 pm PT
- ▸ Project Inquiry review period: August – September 2019
- ▸ Selected organizations invited to submit a full proposal: September 16, 2019
- ▸ Full Proposal deadline: October 15, 2019, 12 pm PT
- ▸ Full Proposal review period: October - November 2019
- ▸ Awards announced: December 2019

How to Apply

1.) We require that you attend one of three webinars to ask questions and to receive additional information. Each webinar will have the same content and will be recorded. To register to attend, please sign up for one date below:

- ▸ July 19, 1 – 2:30 pm ET/ 10 – 11:30 am PT
  https://zoom.us/meeting/register/cf06eeef5ea5f7cedc2040ba88984b7b
- ▸ July 23, 3 – 4:30 pm ET/ 12 - 1:30 pm PT
  https://zoom.us/meeting/register/408f596fe20066f5c5b9141539e44ee6
- ▸ August 8, 6 – 7:30 pm ET/ 3 - 4:30 pm PT
  https://zoom.us/meeting/register/23b7cc7299d05de6c5b9141539e44ee6

2.) Follow the link below to our website to complete the brief, online project inquiry: https://piscesfoundation.org/eerfp. The first section asks for organization and contact information, and the second section seeks proposed project information.

Project Information Questions

- For which type of grant are you applying? (Enable, Organize, Activate)
- Request Amount
- Total Project Budget
- Organization Operating Budget
- What is the purpose of this project? (400 characters max)
- Who is the audience/constituency for this project? (400 characters max)
- Project description (800 characters max)
- Tell us about the organization leading the project and other key collaborators and stakeholders (1400 characters max)
- How will your project support your organization(s) in advancing cultural relevancy and/or equity in the field? (800 characters max)
- What are the goals/objectives of the project? (600 characters max)
- What will be the grant activities to achieve the goals? (2000 characters max)
- What will be the project outputs and/or outcomes? (2000 characters max)

3.) Meet the following project requirements:

- Primary grantee must be a U.S.-based charitable institution recognized as a public charity pursuant to Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3) or be fiscally sponsored by a public charity.
- Project can clearly describe how project activities will build capacity within the organization and the larger fields they are a part of.
- Grantee and partner organizations have expertise in or related to environmental education.
- Grantee is willing to participate in Pisces-funded networks or other ventures for sharing their experience with other interested communities.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How can I learn more?

A. Attend one of three webinars to learn more. To register to attend, please sign up for one date below:

- July 19, 1 – 2:30 pm ET/ 10 – 11:30 am PT
  https://zoom.us/meeting/register/cf06eeef5ea5f7cedc2040ba88984b7b
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  https://zoom.us/meeting/register/23b7cc7299d05de6c5b9141539e44ee6

Q. Can environmental education programs or organizations that directly serve students, children, families, or individuals apply?

A. Yes. However, they can only apply for field-building or collective initiatives not for programs directly working with students, children, families, or individuals.

Q. Can collaborations apply?

A. Yes. Pisces strongly encourages collaborations. If two or more participating organizations apply jointly, the primary organization, for grant management purposes, must have a determination letter from the IRS showing exempt status as a public charity described in Internal Revenue Code Section 5OI(c)(3).

Q. What types of projects are eligible for funding?

A. Please see the "Example Projects Eligible for Funding" chart on page 2 of this document.

Q. Can organizations apply for general operating support?

A. No. This RFP provides project support not general operating support. Please see "Example Projects Eligible for Funding" chart on page 2 of this document for more information.

Q. Can an organization submit a project inquiry if it has an active grant with the Pisces Foundation?

A. No. We are seeking to support a broader array of grantees through this RFP and, therefore, are not accepting project inquiries from active grantees.

Q. If awarded, what are the reporting requirements?

A. Pisces actively engages in monitoring, evaluation, and learning to enable the Foundation and our grantees to grow and improve. To help promote this, Pisces requires that a final report be submitted between two and three months after completion of the project for all grants. For Organize and Activate-level grants, Pisces also requires that an interim report be submitted seven months into the 12-month grant period.

About the Pisces Foundation

At the Pisces Foundation, we believe if we act now and boldly, we can quickly accelerate to a world where people and nature thrive together. We support innovators who know what it takes and are doing what's necessary to have clean and abundant water, a safe climate, and kids with the environmental know-how to create a sustainable world. By mainstreaming powerful new solutions, we will spark immediate gains and lasting benefit for people and nature.

Assistance

Following your participation in a webinar, if you need additional information, please contact:

>Rachel Szczytko
>
>Program Associate, Environmental Education
>
>rszczytko@piscesfoundation.org

Review Panel

- Jason Morris, Senior Program Officer, Environmental Education, Pisces Foundation
- Rachel Szczytko, Program Associate, Environmental Education, Pisces Foundation
- Sarah Bodor, Director of Policy & Affiliate Relations, North American Association for Environmental Education
- CJ Goulding, Manager of Community Leadership Development, Children & Nature Network
- Ashley Hoffman, Executive Director, Kentucky Association for Environmental Education
- Katie Navin, Executive Director, Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education
- Joel Pannell, Associate Director, Outdoors for All Campaign, Sierra Club
- Laura Rodriguez, Director of Programs, Youth Outside

Definitions

Activities: Actions your organization will take to reach your objectives and influence targeted outcomes.

Backbone organizations: Backbone organizations often support and facilitate collective impact through activities such as: guiding vision and strategy; supporting aligned activities; establishing shared measurement practices; building public will; advancing policy; mobilizing funding; and more. Typical types of backbone organizations include - but are not limited to - networks, alliances, affiliations, associations, and other collaborative and collective impact ventures.

Cultural relevancy: In the context of this RFP, Pisces defines cultural relevancy as effectively reaching and engaging networks, communities, and organizations in a manner that is consistent with the cultural context and values of that group while also effectively addressing the disparities of diversity and inclusion within a group's entire structure (adapted from Youth Outside).

Diversity: Pisces wants every person to have the environmental know-how to create a sustainable world. Diversity results when equity and inclusion are practiced consistently and with intention. The Pisces Foundation is an organization that is striving to embrace and build an inclusive and global movement that honors the psychological, physical, and cultural differences that occur among any and all individuals (adapted from the Children & Nature Network 2019 Conference).

Environmental education: Pisces does not define environmental education as one specific lesson, program, or experience; rather, Pisces defines environmental education through its outcomes in building environmental know-how and strengthening conservation, education, health, wellness, youth development, and social equity – whether in a classroom, canoe, or anywhere in between.

Environmental know-how: Pisces sees environmental know-how as synonymous with environmental literacy as defined by Hollweg, et al. (2011). This definition characterizes an environmentally literate person as "someone who, both individually and together with others, makes informed decisions concerning the environment; is willing to act on these decisions to improve the well-being of other individuals, societies, and the global environment; and participates in civic life."

Equity: For this RFP, Pisces defines equity as both striving for fair treatment, access, and opportunity for every person while building their environmental know-how and also identifying and eliminating barriers than have prevented the full participation of historically underserved and underrepresented populations (adapted from the Children & Nature Network 2019 Conference).

Goal: Overall aim the project will help achieve, which may be longer-term and extend beyond this grant.

Inclusion: Pisces is dedicated to creating environments in which all individuals and groups can feel and be welcomed, respected, supported, and valued so that they can fully participate in the movement to provide every person with the environmental know-how to create a sustainable world (adapted from the Children & Nature Network 2019 Conference).

Objectives: Specific, measurable implementation steps within the grant period that will help realize the goal.

Outcomes: The quantitative or qualitative change that you expect to happen as a result of the grant.

Outputs: Direct and short-term results of activities which are necessary but not sufficient to produce the targeted outcomes.