



2023 Exploratory Grant Guidelines and Application – Fiscally Sponsored Entities

As part of the 2023 Tauck Family Foundation Exploratory Grants process, the Foundation will consider applications from fiscally sponsored organizations or entities. Before you begin, we strongly encourage you to review the [Eligibility Checklist](#) to determine whether your organization is a match for our funding opportunity. If your organization has current 501(c)(3) status in the United States, please complete [this application](#).

Grant Guidelines:

- About the Tauck Family Foundation** The Tauck Family Foundation (TFF) is a private, multigenerational family foundation founded in 1994 by Arthur C. Tauck, Jr. to foster a legacy of giving and community involvement. For over 25 years, the Foundation has supported youth development and in the last ten years has invested in organizations and initiatives within Bridgeport, CT. In September 2022, the Foundation announced an anticipated mission change to the environment sector and has spent the past year in an educational phase to arrive at a new vision, mission, and long-term outcomes, outlined below.
- Our Vision** The land and natural habitats upon which communities and all living beings depend are healthy, regenerative, and valued.
- Our Mission** The Tauck Family Foundation supports communities that are most impacted by climate and environmental challenges to strengthen and maintain healthy, regenerative ecosystems and land use practices through education and engagement.
- Our Values** The Foundation seeks to support values-aligned organizations.
- Integrity** We approach our work with humility and an awareness that we do not have all the answers. We aim to form strong, trusting relationships with our partners marked by transparency, spirited communication, and authentic connection.
- Innovation** As a foundation committed to forward-thinking, we embrace innovative, entrepreneurial solutions to social and environmental problems. We seek to work with values-aligned partners towards mutual goals that ultimately contribute to a thriving community.

Growth Mindset	We value continuous learning and improvement in order to serve the needs of our ever-evolving world. We engage with colleagues and partners with varying perspectives, maintain a curious and open mindset, and use our learnings to continually iterate the way we approach and do our work.
Commitment to Excellence	We are committed to instilling a purpose in all that we do. We hold ourselves to high standards, and welcome challenges as opportunities for learning and growth.
Long Term Outcomes We Seek	<p>Regenerative ecosystems and practices are valued as critical for long-term environmental and community health;</p> <p>-and-</p> <p>Communities that are most impacted by climate and other environmental challenges have tools, knowledge, and resources to address adverse impacts.</p>
Our Approach	<p>In 2023, the Tauck Family Foundation plans to distribute several exploratory grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$25,000. Our intention is to use learnings from a variety of grantee partners to help inform and further refine our areas of focus and the specific impact we seek to achieve through our giving.</p> <p>We use the following resources to guide our understanding of the communities in the U.S. and internationally that are most vulnerable to climate and other environmental challenges: EPA's Climate Change and Social Vulnerability in the United States and the Global Climate Risk Index 2021. We seek to support these communities and groups by distributing grants to organizations for new or existing efforts that contribute to healthy land use and regenerative ecosystems. We prioritize proposals that clearly integrate education and/or engagement efforts.</p>
Evaluation Criteria	<p>Grantees will be selected based on the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarity of success: <i>How is success defined? What are the expected results from this proposed grant and how will you measure the improvement in condition for the place or people served?</i> Results are the incremental improvements in behavior or condition that are achieved as a direct result of the proposed efforts. • Likelihood of success: <i>How likely is it that the results can be achieved?</i> Our focus is on factors such as past success of the organization, validity of the proposed approach, organizational capacity, and key personnel leading the proposed work. • Relationships in community (including community partnerships and other supports, networks, and allies): <i>Are there strong community relationships in place to carry out the work?</i>

- **Mission alignment:** *Does the proposal support a population identified by the Foundation as those most impacted by climate and other environmental challenges? Does the application clearly articulate how education and/or engagement efforts are utilized to achieve the intended results?*
- **Cost effectiveness:** *Does the proposed reach and impact seem commensurate with its cost?*

Budget and Project Terms Grants will range from a total of \$10,000 to \$25,000 and are for a one-year grant term. While the work can extend beyond the grant period, applications must define a discrete set of activities that will be performed during the one-year period.

Grantees will be asked to:

- share an update during one of the Foundation’s virtual Board meetings in 2024;
- participate in two calls with the Foundation to share progress and learnings; and
- at the end of the project period, complete a grant report to articulate accomplishments, progress toward achieving intended outcomes, and learnings.

Timeline

June 1, 2023	Application available
August 1, 2023	Application due
October 31, 2023	Application review process completed; grantees notified
December 1, 2023	Project period begins
December 1, 2024	Project period concludes
January 15, 2025	Grant Report Due

What We Do Not Fund:

- Organizations that are not recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as tax exempt, publicly supported organizations under IRS section 501(c)(3)
- Grants to individuals or private foundations
- Special events, galas, benefits, and sponsorships
- Capital campaigns and projects
- Scholarships
- Endowment funding
- Land acquisition/purchases

Grant Application:

General Application Information

- Please complete a full application and provide the required supplemental documents outlined below. To access these materials as well as additional resources, [click here](#).
- Narrative components of the application should be submitted in PDF or Word format.
- Submit the completed application and all requested supplemental documents via Dropbox, by [clicking here](#). Please label all documents as such: Your Organization Name_Document Name.
- All application materials are due by 11:59pm EST on **August 1, 2023**. Late materials will not be accepted.
- Direct questions to the Foundation: info@tauckfoundation.org.

Eligibility Criteria

- In order to submit an application to the Tauck Family Foundation, an organization must have current or be fiscally sponsored by an organization with current 501(c)(3) status in the United States.
- An organization must support and/or work with communities and/or groups in the U.S. and/or other countries that are most vulnerable to climate and other environmental challenges. We use the following resources to guide our understanding of these communities: [EPA's Climate Change and Social Vulnerability in the United States](#) and the [Global Climate Risk Index 2021](#).

Supplemental Documents

In addition to completing this application, please include as attachments or website links the following documents:

- Letter signed by leadership from the fiscal sponsor and fiscally sponsored entities that outlines the relationship including: why the organization took on the fiscal sponsorship, fee structure for the sponsorship, what services are provided within the fee structure, any sponsorship restrictions, plans for continued fiscal sponsorship of this entity, other entities the organization serves as a fiscal sponsor for, and any other pertinent information. (note: 501c3 organizations should review and complete [this application](#).)

Fiscal Sponsor's:

- Most recent 990 tax return and audited financial statements (if available).
- A list of pending litigation or lawsuits facing the organization and their status, if any.

Fiscally Sponsored Entity's:

- Current Board of Directors or Governing Body's list, including affiliations.
- An organizational staffing chart.

- Annual operating budget (income and expenses) for the previous, current, and coming fiscal years.
- Detailed budget for which funding is requested (use [available template](#) if needed; for multi-year projects, please include the full budget).
- Sources of funding for this work that have been committed and/or are pending (use [available template](#) if needed).
- A list of pending litigation or lawsuits facing the entity and their status, if any.
- Any additional supporting documents that clearly demonstrate the relevance of the proposed work to TFF's mission (*not required or expected; please only include if this is additive to the proposal for which funds are being requested*).

Please complete Section A for BOTH the fiscal sponsor and the fiscally sponsored entity.

Section A.

General Organization Information

Full Legal Organization Name:

Also Known As:

EIN:

In what year was the organization founded or incorporated?

Chief Executive Officer/Executive

Director Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip Code:

Country:

Phone:

Email:

Website and Social Media

Organization website:

Facebook page:

Instagram profile:

LinkedIn page:

Twitter profile:

Please provide other social networking profiles your organization uses:

Contact Information

Please provide us with the contact information for the person at your organization responsible for addressing any further correspondence regarding this application, including follow-up questions and progress updates.

First name:

Last name:

Title:

Phone:

Email:

Source

How did the organization learn about this opportunity to apply for a grant from the Tauck Family Foundation?

Please complete Section B for BOTH the fiscal sponsor and the fiscally sponsored entity.

Section B.

Organizational Profile

We encourage brief and succinct answers (2-5 sentences/response). Bulleted responses are also acceptable. If we require more detailed information, we will certainly reach out.

1. What is the organization's mission, vision, and values?
Guidance: Mission is what you do and hope to achieve; vision is the optimal impact you aspire to make at some point in the future; and values are core beliefs held by the organization.
2. Please briefly describe the programs and services the organization provides.
Guidance: Please include programs and services that are related to the environment and climate change.
3. What results has the organization achieved in the past three years in support of its mission and vision?
4. What challenges has the organization faced in the past three years and how has the organization's leadership managed through those challenges?

Leadership and Accountability

5. What is the governing body for the organization (Board of Directors, Council, Committee, etc.)?
6. What is the size of the governing body?
7. How many paid employees does the organization have?
8. How long has the Chief Executive Officer or Executive Director been in their role?
9. How many volunteers are currently active in the organization? (*approximately*)

Financial Information

10. What is the organization's total budget?
11. Does the organization have any financial reserves?
12. If so, what is the amount and for how many months of operation?

Section C. Proposal Overview

During the Foundation's 2023-24 exploratory grant phase, we will consider a variety of new or existing efforts which may include projects, programs, initiatives, etc. aimed at achieving intended results that align with the Foundation's mission and contribute to the Foundation's desired long-term outcomes. Please explicitly describe the type(s) of work for which funds are being requested.

1. Proposal Name:
2. What is the total budget (in USD)? \$
3. How much funding are you seeking from the Tauck Family Foundation to support this effort (in USD)? \$
4. Are there other funders supporting this effort? (Y/N)
5. How much of the total budget has already been raised? \$

Section D. Proposal Details

We encourage brief and succinct answers (3-5 sentences/response). If we require more detailed information, we will certainly reach out.

1. Summarize the **proposed efforts** for the funds being requested. Tell us how these proposed efforts will have an impact on the community and its members, habitat, and/or ecosystem.
2. Please describe any **other partners involved** in carrying out this work and their role in these efforts (i.e., community relationships, partnerships and other supports, networks, and allies). Does the organization have a relationship with these partners, or will one need to be developed?
3. Describe the **specific barriers and difficulties** faced by the majority of the participants, the communities, or the ecosystem/habitat the proposed efforts plans to improve.
Guidance: The Foundation looks to support organizations and communities most impacted by climate and other environmental challenges. Tell us about the challenges the population is facing and the anticipated level of difficulty to help participants or their communities succeed by defining the barriers the majority of those served face.
4. What is the **challenge or opportunity** the proposed efforts will aim to solve for its participants, the community, and/or the ecosystem?

Guidance: Outline the issue(s) and causes, if applicable, that the population or places to be served are experiencing and that this proposal aims to address. Specifically, what critical unmet need does your proposal address?

5. In 3-5 sentences, please define **what will be different** for the core participants, the community and/or ecosystem conditions by the end of the grant period (December 2024) and how many will achieve it. How will **progress be measured and verified**?
Guidance: Results are specific verifiable changes in behavior or condition made possible by the work you do. A concise results statement should indicate the specific changes in behavior or condition the proposed efforts seek to achieve by the end of the grant period, and in some instances, beyond the grant period. [Click here](#) for guidance on crafting your proposal's 'result statement'.

6. What are the **key elements** of the proposed efforts that are critical to achieve the intended results by the end of the one-year grant period (December 2024)?
Guidance: The proposal should reflect a coherent strategy to achieve a result. Tell us the key elements that must be in place to achieve success for the population served including the essential elements and general structure that must be in place and how much interaction is required throughout to ensure success.