

FAQS

OUR PROGRAMS AND MORE

Our regional officers are excited to hear about opportunities in your community. Here's some information to guide our conversations.

1. What's the process for submitting a grant application?

Regional officers are here to work with you through an iterative concepting process which can take several months or longer to bring forward a competitive concept paper. We accept draft concepts on a rolling basis and suggest connecting with your regional officer early on in your project so that they can solicit feedback from our team and provide you with guidance moving forward. Competitive proposals will be recommended to submit a full concept at the appropriate cycle deadline. Once staff reviews all concept papers we select projects to move forward to application, where applicants provide additional information and indications of community support. A panel of outside experts and staff undertake a peer review of applications and make recommendations for award.

2. When should I connect with my regional officer about a project?

As soon as you have an idea about an opportunity that fits our values. We want to hear about your grand plans even if they are years away. Regional officers can provide feedback and guidance well in advance and throughout your project. We are also happy to conduct site visits to better understand your project.

3. I've heard that GOCO grants are competitive.

We see immense needs and opportunities across the state. Currently, approximately 1/3 of concept papers advance to the application stage and about 1/2 of applications that advance receive funding. We recognize the competitiveness and modified our processes so that our partners do not have to commit significant time and resources to put forth a concept paper and application. Working with your regional officer through the concepting phase will help to position your proposal for review.

4. What do I need to know about match requirements for GOCO?

GOCO does not have a match requirement for our funding opportunities, though you should explore opportunities for strategic project partnerships, which can include both cash and in-kind resources. Additionally, our application allows for partners to outline other leveraged resources in order to reflect the value of recently committed resources, such as the acquisition of land for a new park or other elements completed in anticipation of your proposal. We encourage grantees to use GOCO funds as match for additional fundraising efforts.

5. Can we submit multiple project applications?

We recommend that communities prioritize projects, though we recognize that opportunities may arise for multiple applications between base programs. For example, an important stewardship investment may coincide with the timeline for a community impact project. Connect with your regional officer so that they can provide guidance and make recommendations about the best path forward.

6. If awarded funding, how much time do we have to complete our project?

We have flexibility regarding your project timeline though we expect that competitive proposals will commence soon after award. Generally, our partners reflect a 1-3 year timeline to complete their project.

7. Where can I find more information?

Check out our website. There you can find contact information to connect with a regional officer, sign-up for our newsletter, view our grant calendar, and find information about our grant programs and concept paper materials. Our website also highlights some of our partner accomplishments.