

Friends of Nepal 2023 Grant Solicitation and Application

Call for Project Proposals

Responses due by July 31, 2023

2023 Grant Theme Summary

Friends of Nepal (FoN) is opening its grant application period and will be supporting initiatives that address one or more of the following themes: **A. Climate Change, B. Natural Resource Conservation, and C. Sustainability.** Over the years, many of our selected projects have overlapped with environmental causes. For example, one of our partner organizations, Himalayan Healthcare, provided agricultural training in northern Dhading to women who suffered from the economic fallout caused by the Covid pandemic. Not only did this benefit the environment, it also supported the entrepreneurial pursuits of women as they worked to recover from the losses of the past years. More recently, partner CBODC has taken a multi-faceted approach to supporting remote communities on the border between Kailali and Doti through agricultural diversification and income generation, water conservation, and indoor air quality Improvements.

Climate change and environmental degradation loom large in the agricultural and economic fate of Nepal. Many Volunteers have witnessed villages scramble to repair the damage caused by heavy rainfall, hail, or a landslide, and subsistence farming is becoming more difficult in an unpredictable climate. Erratic weather events have increasingly affected farmers as well as others in the community. Last year, a USAID spokesperson remarked, "...erosion from mountains, heavy monsoon rains, uncontrolled burning, and forest fires make the country especially vulnerable to climate change. Climate change poses a direct threat to Nepal's remarkable biodiversity and cultural traditions." This year too fires have continued to rage across Nepal contributing to some of the worst air pollution in recent memory and not just in urban areas.

Prior to our current focus on Climate Change, Natural Resource Conservation, and Sustainability, FoN grants focused on efforts in support of girls' learning. Increasing girls' participation in education and improving the quality of their participation is an on-going challenge for Nepal's educational system. **FoN therefore particularly encourages applications that include support for girls' learning as a component of the proposal. We will also give special consideration to projects that simultaneously address climate change, natural resource conservation, and sustainability as well as economic development.** For example, how might a school science club (girls and boys) engage with

their community in developing a climate-smart technique that can become a potential income source for some members of the community?

More examples of projects we are interested in sponsoring are:

- Natural Resource Management,
- Natural Disaster Mitigation,
- Efforts to Protect Land and Wildlife,
- Educational Programs that engage students in local climate change mitigation and conservation activities,
- Waste Management: Projects to reduce open defecation, and improve community hygiene; this could also focus on community management of solid waste and recycling efforts,
- Seed Saving, Soil Improvements, Home Gardens, and other Sustainable Farming Methods,
- Pollution Mitigation (air, water, soil etc.).

Eligibility

- Non-profit organizations, schools, and community groups are welcome to apply.
- Friends of Nepal generally does not provide scholarships to individuals.
- Friends of Nepal prefers to work with organizations with a proven track record.
- We particularly encourage proposals that implement activities in remote areas and/or among disadvantaged populations.
- Organizations must be based in either the United States or Nepal, and be providing direct services in Nepal/have authorization from the government of Nepal.
- Beneficiaries of the project must be actively involved, as demonstrated by donations of volunteer labor, materials, or money.
- Projects must be sponsored by an active Friends of Nepal member who has significant ties to Nepal. The sponsor has until the application due date to join FoN. The organization applying must submit a letter of recommendation from the sponsor along with the proposal. Please see the Sponsor Role and Responsibilities section below. Any potential sponsor must read the Role and Responsibilities section before agreeing to sponsor.
- If you don't meet these criteria, but still feel that your project merits consideration, you may email the Grants Committee Chairperson at grants@friendsofnepal.com.

Sponsor Role and Responsibilities

Sponsor Role: As FoN is an entirely volunteer run organization and it's not possible to make frequent field visits, we rely on sponsors to vet the viability, relevance and sustainability of proposed projects while also promoting accountability (e.g., meeting targets, use of funds, reaching appropriate communities, adequate reporting etc.). FoN expects sponsors to engage with successful applicants *throughout* the project cycle. Successful proposals must

demonstrate sponsor role in and commitment to the project. As sponsors are the primary liaison between project and FoN they must have an in-depth knowledge of the project design and, ideally, the implementing organization, geographic location and community served. Sponsors are encouraged to actively explore project cost-share opportunities (e.g., through local government, I/NGOs, community organizations etc.) to maximize impact and scale. FoN will work with sponsors to help them fulfill the responsibilities described below, beginning with a post-award orientation with FoN.

Sponsor Criteria:

- Must be an active FoN member with significant ties to Nepali communities (non-members can join before submitting a proposal). Historically sponsors have been RPCVs as well as those with extensive experience in and knowledge of Nepal (e.g., development practitioners, Fulbright scholars etc.).
- Ideally sponsors have a pre-existing connection to the applicant organization. Absent such a connection there must be a clear rationale for the sponsor's association with the Nepali organization/project.
- Must have a solid understanding of the project design, activities, target community as well as applicant organization's resources and capacity.
- Must be continuously engaged with the project from inception to wrap up.
- Must clearly articulate the sponsor's role in the project.

Sponsor Responsibilities:

- Vetting project proposal
- Liaising with FoN
- Project monitoring & evaluation
- Project management troubleshooting
- Oversight on narrative and financial reporting

Project Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Your project proposal should:

1. Focus on the current theme (see A, B, and C in Summary of Grant Theme above),
2. Demonstrate community support through financial or material contributions, volunteer labor, or other in-kind services,
3. Demonstrate the potential to be replicated in other locations and continue to provide benefit to the community,
4. Demonstrate sustainability of the project and/or its effects.
 - Project outcomes should be long lasting
 - How will participants continue to benefit after the project is completed?
 - Does the project build up local leadership?

- How will maintenance be provided in the future, if needed? Are the materials and personnel locally available?
 - Show a track record of prior project completion,
5. Be achievable in one year,
 6. Include a specific and realistic evaluation plan for measuring the outcomes of the project.

Please visit our website to see examples of our previously funded projects at friendsofnepal.com.

Selected Proposals

Friends of Nepal is a nonprofit organization that relies on contributions from members to fund community development and grassroots projects in Nepal. This year, we have a total amount of \$25,000 to award. In the past, the average grant size has been approximately \$5,000 per project.

Selected applicants will be notified by September 30, 2023. The award letter will provide details about sending an interim report six months into the project as well as a final report at the end, which should include photos and a review of budget expenditures. These items may be published on our website and Facebook page, and Friends of Nepal asks to be recognized in any promotional materials for the project, such as newsletters, fundraising letters, presentations, or press releases.

Funding must be used for the activities listed in the project proposal. Using funds for other purposes may be considered a breach of contract. If there are changes to the proposed timeline, activities, or budget, contact the Grants Committee Chairperson first for approval (grants@friendsofnepal.com).

Questions

Friends of Nepal's objectives are threefold: **(1)** to support community development and grassroots efforts in Nepal, **(2)** to provide a platform for returned Peace Corps Volunteers and those with strong ties to Nepal to connect with one another and participate in community development efforts in Nepal, and **(3)** to build and strengthen organizations and relationships that benefit the people of Nepal.

We are an affiliate group of the National Peace Corps Association, and many of our members are former Peace Corps Volunteers or staff. However, anyone with an interest in being a friend to one of the most beautiful, diverse, and welcoming countries in the world is encouraged to join FoN.

All questions regarding the application process should be directed to the Grants Committee Chairperson at grants@friendsofnepal.com. If your organization is interested in applying for grant funding but does not have a sponsor, please get in touch. We may be able to connect you with Friends of Nepal members who may want to sponsor your project, assuming that they meet the sponsorship criteria.

Application Checklist

Follow along with this checklist to develop your project proposal. The three main components are the cover sheet, written application, and supporting attachments.

➤ **First, fill out the following cover sheet.**

| Requesting Organization Summary Information Deadline for Submission: July 31, 2023 | | |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| Organization Name: _____ | | |
| Project Title: _____ | | |
| Requested Amount of Funding: _____ | | |
| Organization Contact | | |
| <i>Name</i> | <i>Title</i> | <i>Location (Nepal or U.S.)</i> |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Organization Address & Phone Number | | |
| <i>In Nepal</i> | <i>In the United States (if applicable)</i> | |
| _____ | _____ | |
| _____ | _____ | |
| _____ | _____ | |
| Sponsor Information (see eligibility section) | | |
| <i>Name</i> _____ | <i>Email</i> _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Development Experience in Nepal <input type="checkbox"/> Active Friends of Nepal member | | |
| Sponsor Telephone Number | | |
| <i>In Nepal</i> | <i>In the United States</i> | |
| _____ | _____ | |

- **Second, you must write an application according to the following headings. Excluding the cover sheet and attachments, your application should not exceed six pages (single spaced, 12-point font).**
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- Abstract - Provide a brief overview of the project with a descriptive title.
 - Need - Explain why the project is needed, the problems it will address, and who will benefit. Try to be as detailed as possible and remember to give the exact location.
 - Goals - List the outcomes this project hopes to achieve.
 - Activities - Describe the proposed activities and participants. Consider the methods and guiding principles you will employ, and explain how the activities work towards the goals of the project.
 - Timeline - Either in writing or in a table, provide a timeline of the project, including the proposed activities and any other key events.
 - Community Involvement - What roles do community members play in the planning and implementation of the project? Demonstrate that the community is supportive, empowered, and meaningfully involved.
 - Evaluation - Outline a specific plan for monitoring the project and evaluating its success.
 - Sustainability - Explain how the community will continue to benefit after the project is completed.
 - Budget - Provide a table, spreadsheet, or bulleted list of project expenses, such as personnel, supplies/equipment, contractual labor, and transportation. Each item should include a description of its purpose, the cost (for supplies), rate (for labor and staff), and the total amount.
- **Lastly, include the following attachments.**
- Letter of recommendation from the project sponsor that states 1) their background and experience relevant to Nepal, to your organization, and to the proposed project, 2) their willingness and ability fulfill the sponsor responsibilities, and 3) their reasons for sponsoring this particular project for your organization.
 - Letter of authorization from the head of the applicant organization.
 - Proof of nonprofit status and registration with the Social Welfare Council of Nepal.
 - If applicable, a list of other financial contributors to the project and the amounts given.

To submit your project proposal, combine the items from this checklist into a **single** PDF document and send it to the Grants Committee Chairperson at grants@friendsofnepal.com by July 31, 2023. We look forward to reading your project proposal!

Sincerely,

The Friends of Nepal Grants Committee