

# **Gateway Regional Environment Fund**

## **Request for Letters of Interest**

**Issued February 18, 2025**

Letters of Interest due **by 3:00 pm Central Time on Friday, March 28, 2025**

Proposals may be found at: <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=stlgives>

**ST. LOUIS**



**COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION**



## OVERVIEW

The purpose of the **Gateway Regional Environment Fund (“GREF”)** is to support projects in the St. Louis metro area that advance **community efforts to reduce the region’s carbon footprint**. Greenhouse gases are global and, though their effects may not be felt directly, greenhouse gases do and will continue to negatively impact the St. Louis region.

The GREF is a component fund of the St. Louis Community Foundation.

## GRANT PURPOSE

This request for “letters of interest” (LOIs) is for organizations with proposals for projects that are both innovative and will have a lasting measurable impact on St. Louis. We seek ideas that will produce:

- **Measurable reduction of carbon (or other GHGs) in the environment**
- Replicable and sustainable programming
- New synergies or take advantage of existing synergies

The GREF will evaluate proposals in significant part based on their ability to credibly mitigate emissions, and at what scale. Mitigation may be affected via direct or indirect strategies, but a credible plan for mitigation to occur is critical. While it is not a requirement, the GREF prefers proposals that use grant support to maximum effect by facilitating end-user access to already-existing resources, incentives, or efficiencies. Such facilitation might occur by attempting to correct issues such as lack of knowledge or awareness, market inefficiencies, split incentives, fragmented opportunities, measurement challenges, and constraints on access to capital.

As an example of a successful proposal, the GREF made a grant to support the development of a financing mechanism allowing nonprofit agencies in the region to access the tax advantages associated with installing renewable energy on their property. The project was intended to connect nonprofits, that do not pay federal income taxes, to tax incentives already in place for other sectors of the community.

The GREF will give preference to proposals that demonstrate clear evidence of community demand for services.

## GRANT PROCESS

In this LOI phase, we welcome project ideas that may have a one-year lifespan or may require multiple years for planning and implementation. Organizations may propose **up to four potential projects** that would support the Fund’s efforts to decrease carbonization. Organizations with a project or projects of potential interest to the GREF, based on review of the LOIs, will be asked for a full proposal and site visit with the donors. If, after the site visit, the donors have additional questions, the organization will be given an opportunity to submit additional material. Grant decisions will be announced after all materials have been reviewed and site visits conducted.

In 2025 the Gateway Regional Environment Fund will make one-year grants up to \$100,000. Successful grants may be renewed for up to two additional years. Eligibility for a second and third year of funding will be based on an annual evaluation and report.

Proposals leveraging other potential funding sources are encouraged. Where possible, ongoing programs should have the potential to self-fund or operate without the need for additional funding from the GREF after the term of the grant.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization
- Have a minimum of two permanent staff members
- Have a minimum budget of \$200,000

Where proposals involve collaborative efforts amongst 2 or more qualified nonprofit organizations. LOIs should be submitted under the profile of the project lead and clearly illustrate a well-established partnership.

While the Gateway Regional Environment Fund recognizes the importance and value of the range of efforts that will result in a more sustainable environment, the following types of projects are not the focus of this request for proposals:

- Advocacy and litigation
- Conservation efforts
- Food production
- Recycling programs
- Research initiatives

### **TIMELINE for 2025 FUNDING PROCESS**

February 21, 2025	Request for Letters of Interest released
March 28, 2025	Letters of Interest due @ 3:00 pm
April 18, 2025	Invitations offered for full proposals and site visits
May 30, 2025	Full proposals due @ 3:00 pm
June 2025	GREF Representatives will conduct site visits as needed
July 2025	Grant recipients announced and grant funding distributed
January 2026	Mid-year report and meeting held
June 2026	Year 1 evaluation report and funding renewal application due
July 2026	Year 2 funds disbursed, if applicable

### **QUESTIONS**

The Gateway Regional Environment Fund is a component fund of the St. Louis Community Foundation. If you have questions about this Request for Proposals please contact the Community Foundation team at [grants@stlgives.org](mailto:grants@stlgives.org).

## PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

The LOI for funding through the Gateway Regional Environment Fund may be found on the St. Louis Community Foundation's grant portal at <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=stlgives>.

## LOI PREVIEW

1. Organization mission or purpose
2. Geographic Area Served – Please list counties served by your organization
3. Please provide a brief description of your organization

Organizations are invited to submit up to four project ideas. For each Project Idea applicants must provide:

4. Project/Program Title
5. Project Start Date
6. Project End Date
7. Project focus – please check all that apply
  - a. Measurable reduction of carbon in the environment (required)
  - b. Replicable and sustainable programming
  - c. New synergies or take advantage of existing synergies
8. Type of Project:
  - a. A new project or program
  - b. Expansion of an existing program
9. Please provide a brief description of the program/project for which you are seeking funding and why you feel it fits within the stated purpose of the Gateway Regional Environment Fund's request for letters of intent.
10. What evidence has led you to determine there is existing community demand for the services this program is designed to facilitate?
11. Amount Requested: Year one
12. If multi-year, Amount Requested: Total
13. How did you decide on that amount?
14. Total project budget for the grant period: Year one
15. If multi-year, total project budget for the grant period: Total
16. If applicable, please provide the name(s) and a brief description of the role(s) of partners(s) on this project.

### Required Attachments

- Board approved FY2025 Annual Operating Budget

### Optional Supplemental Documents

- Photos, client stories, agency materials such as annual reports