



# Get Outdoors (GO) Fund

## Overview

Established in 2020, the Virginia Outdoors Foundation's Get Outdoors (GO) Fund provides grants for projects that increase equitable access to safe open space in Virginia's communities. Some examples of costs that can be covered include planning, capacity building, programming, and infrastructure, although priority will be given to shovel-ready projects with tangible, measurable results. The intent of the program is to serve as a flexible, adaptable tool to be used to address communities' needs.

## Current Opportunity

VOF is seeking proposals for projects that increase equitable access to safe open space in Virginia's communities, especially those that are underserved. The first fiscal year 2023 grant round opens on July 11, 2022.

There is a new pre-application process in place, which requires interested applicants to submit no more than one page of text in response to several basic questions about the project. Pre-applications most aligned with program parameters will be invited to submit a full application. The pre-application has a recommended submission deadline of July 27, 2022, and a required deadline of August 10, 2022. Invitations to apply for the GO Fund will be sent within one week of receipt of a successful pre-application. Should a pre-applicant be invited to submit a full application, there is a deadline of August 22, 2022 for the final application. The responses provided in the pre-application will be incorporated in and elaborated on in the full application. Grant awards will be announced at the October 11, 2022 meeting of the Virginia Outdoors Foundation's board of trustees.

## Applicant Eligibility

GO grants may be awarded to state, local, regional, or tribal government entities; educational institutions; or non-profit organizations registered as tax-exempt under the Internal Revenue Service code, <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/exempt-organization-types>. Federal governmental entities, for-profit entities, and individuals are not eligible at this time.

Applicants who have received past GO grants of more than \$5,000 must complete the approved project before submitting additional requests.

## Funds Available

There is \$200,000 available for the first grant round of Fiscal Year 2023 with consideration of funding requests up to \$25,000 per project. Funds will generally be disbursed through a reimbursement process, though \$5,000 in starter funds are available to all approved projects, and funding may be advanced upon the provision of invoices, signed contracts, or other binding documentation of future expenses. No funds will be paid directly to a vendor. Partial funding is a possibility.

## Project Eligibility

VOF may provide funding for studies, planning, concept development, capacity building, programming, and infrastructure to enable safe use of or access to public open space, as well as for land acquisition. Priority will be given to shovel-ready projects with tangible, measurable results. Projects that seek to acquire or convey an interest in real estate (such as land acquisition, easement protection, lease agreement, or a right of way) should consider applying for a grant from VOF's [Preservation Trust Fund](#) program.

## Application Process

Applications are being accepted through an online process exclusively, which can be accessed at <https://www.vof.org/protect/grants/go/>. VOF requires a pre-application to be submitted for review before a full application for funding may be submitted. The recommended deadline to submit pre-applications is 5:00 p.m. on July 27, 2022, with the required deadline being August 10, 2022. The invited, final application submission deadline is 5:00 p.m. on August 22, 2022.

Please contact VOF grants staff at [grants@vof.org](mailto:grants@vof.org) with any questions about the application process or project eligibility.