

# 2019 Friends of Nepal Grant Solicitation

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Let Girls Learn Initiative--Request for Proposals  
Responses due by 15 June 2019

## Summary

Friends of Nepal (FoN) is pleased to announce that it is opening its grant application period and will be supporting the 'Let Girls Learn' initiative for the third consecutive year. **Proposals for projects that support girls' education and women's education or livelihoods are eligible for funding.**

## Eligibility

- Non-profit organizations, schools, and community groups are welcome to apply
- FoN generally does not provide scholarships to individuals
- FoN generally does not support start-up organizations and prefers to fund organizations with a proven track record. However, please be sure to contact FoN Project Coordinator in advance of the application deadline should you feel your project or organization merits consideration.

## Introduction

The Let Girls Learn Initiative was spearheaded by former First Lady Michelle Obama in 2016 to increase public awareness on the issue of girls' equality and address barriers to their education. In Nepal, girls are educationally disadvantaged, often having to return home to aid their mothers with childcare, housework, and fieldwork. As a result, girls' attendance and performance at school is below that of their male peers. Consequently, women lack economic opportunity—they enter the workforce with limited qualifications and hold little prospect for rising above low-skill, low-wage jobs. FoN adopted the Let Girls Learn theme for its grant solicitation in 2017 and will continue with the theme for 2019. We hope that through continued support of girls' and women's education, we can have a positive impact on women's equality and remove some of the barriers to their success. We seek proposals that will address educational barriers, opening economic opportunities for girls to fulfill their dreams as leaders, athletes, scholars, artists, business owners, teachers, and more!

## Details

Friends of Nepal is accepting proposals for projects that support girls' education and women's education and livelihoods. FoN expects to award up to \$10,000 in grant funding; grants in the \$2000-\$5000 range are more likely to be funded, but larger or

smaller grants will be considered. Applications must be submitted by email no later than 9pm EST on 15 June 2019. Applicants must use the application form found [here](#).

All applications must be sponsored by a Friends of Nepal member who must also be either a returned Peace Corps Volunteer (RPCV) or a former Peace Corps staff member. The RPCV may be from any country, but must show a connection to Nepal (e.g. works in Nepal) or to the applicant organization. **The sponsor must be or become a member of FoN by the time of application.** The sponsor must submit a letter of recommendation for the organization and the project. The sponsor will be asked to provide FoN with updates on the project.

A FoN Project Committee member is likely to get in touch with the applicant and/or the sponsor to review the application prior to the award determination.

## Project Evaluation Criteria

The FoN Project Committee reviews applications. It will look favorably upon projects that:

- Fulfill the FoN mission
- Are of broad benefit (as opposed to a small group or individual)
- Focus on girls by improving girls' education, health, livelihood, social status, or economic potential
- Demonstrate community support (e.g. through cash, materials, labor, or other in-kind services)
- Have future potential to be replicated in other locations and/or continue to provide benefit to the community
- Target people in greatest need
- Are stand-alone projects (the project may be part of a larger effort if it is a discrete project).

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

## Application Requirements

The following must be submitted for an application to be considered:

- A completed application (see below)
- A cover letter with a project summary and contact information (see below)
- Contact information for the sponsor
- Proof of non-profit status (if using a fiscal agent, please include a letter from the agent)
- Support letters from any agency, institution, or organization affected by your project. For example, if you propose to build a community toilet facility, please include support letters from the community and/or landowner, if applicable
- Proposals and sponsorship letters must be submitted as one single PDF file
- Please number the pages of your application
- Please do not include any extraneous supporting materials. These will not be considered and may invalidate your application

- The narrative portion of the application (numbers 1-3 below, excluding cover letter, budget, and support letters) should not exceed five pages. We will not consider applications over five pages
- Proposals must be received by 15 June 2019.

Friends of Nepal does not provide scholarships for individuals. FoN does not provide grants to individuals.

## **Selected Proposals**

Selected applicants will be notified by 15 August 2019. Projects must be completed within one year from award notification. **Grantees must use grant funds for the purpose(s) specified in the award letter. Using funds for other purposes may be considered a breach of contract. Please contact FoN for permission to use project awards for activities different than specified in application and contract; written consent must be given by the Friend of Nepal Board of Directors.**

## **Deliverables**

FoN requires a comprehensive final written report about the project within 15 months of the grant award. Photos and a budget report must accompany the final report. Photos may be used in future FoN newsletters or on the website. In addition, a brief interim report is due within six months of the award. Reporting requirements will be provided with the notification of the funding award.

## **Recognition**

FoN requires that any promotional material for the project, including newsletters, fundraising letters, presentations, or press releases, be accompanied with recognition of Friend of Nepal's support. FoN can provide a high resolution image of its logo. FoN encourages grantees to publicize information about the FoN grant award and the outcome of the project with their donors, members, and the general public.

## **Questions**

Please direct any questions to Project Committee Chair, Ms. Val Stori at [valstori@yahoo.com](mailto:valstori@yahoo.com). Please put "FoN project proposal" in the subject line.

**FRIENDS OF NEPAL**  
**GRANT REQUEST APPLICATION**

**Requesting Organization  
Summary Information  
Deadline for Submission: 15 June 2019**

Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Organization Contact Name(s)**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Location (Nepal or U.S.)</i>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

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**Organization Address Information & Telephone**

<i>In Nepal</i>	<i>In the United States (if applicable)</i>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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**Sponsor Information (see solicitation for sponsor eligibility)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

RPCV     FoN Membership

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**Sponsor Telephone Number**

<i>In Nepal</i>	<i>In the United States</i>
_____	_____
_____	_____

## Introduction

Friends of Nepal (FoN) is a non-government organization comprised of former Peace Corps Volunteers who served in Nepal. All work completed by FoN is through the efforts of volunteer members scattered throughout the United States. FoN's operating budget is provided entirely through the membership dues and other contributions of our members.

Friends of Nepal provides a framework for people who love Nepal to connect with each other and to Nepal, while continuing to help in the development of Nepal in concrete ways. Most of our members are returned Peace Corps volunteers from Nepal, former Peace Corps staff, or Americans who have lived in Nepal, but anyone with an interest of being a friend to one of the most beautiful, diverse and welcoming countries in the world is welcome to join.

FoN's primary objectives are threefold: (1) to provide a communication vehicle for returned Peace Corps Volunteers about Nepal and the U.S. Peace Corps' efforts there; (2) to continue building and strengthening relationships with people in Nepal; and (3) to provide assistance on development projects and issues.

The primary tool that FoN uses to provide assistance for development projects in Nepal is through direct grants to grassroots organizations. The 2019 funding theme is: Let Girls Learn—an initiative supporting girls' and women's education. The deadline for submission is June 15. Grant awards are expected to be in the \$2000-\$5000. Previous funded projects include the purchase of medical equipment, funding school construction projects, constructing necessary community infrastructure such as wash stations and toilets, early education programs and teacher training, and establishing libraries. FoN does not provide funding for individual scholarships or other similar, individual support.

## Eligibility

- Organizations must be based in either the United States or Nepal, and be providing direct services in Nepal;
- Organizations must have a project sponsor—a Friends of Nepal member who is also an RPCV and former Peace Corps staff. The sponsor must have an active FoN membership.
- The beneficiary organization or community must demonstrate involvement and commitment to the project through donations of volunteer labor, materials, or money.

## Evaluation Criteria

Your project/project application should:

- \*Demonstrate your ability to carry out the project
- \*Show community support
- \*Focus on girls' education or women's education and livelihoods
- \*The project may include boys, but women/girls must be the majority recipients
- \*Demonstrate a good track record of prior project completion
- \*Demonstrate community need
- \*Be sustainable (impact will continue beyond one year)
- \*Be completed within one year

## Application

Please structure your application in accordance with the following headings. The narrative (excluding budget and budget narrative) **should not exceed 5 pages (single spaced, 12-point font). Narratives that exceed this limit may not be reviewed.**

1. **Abstract**—Please provide a descriptive title and a one paragraph (100 words or less) description of your project.
2. **Organizational background** – Please provide a brief description of your organization's history and track record (1-page maximum)
3. **Project Description** (2-4 pages suggested)

- a. Need – describe the community or individuals to be served (location and demographic profile) through this project and the problem which your proposed project will address. Be sure to include the exact location (district, village) of the project.
- b. Goals – list up to three project goals that you hope to achieve through this project
- c. Activities -- provide a robust description of your proposed project, including activities, methods, staffing, etc.
- d. Community involvement – describe the involvement of the affected community. FoN considers local participation critical to the success of any aid/donor project. The applicant must be able to demonstrate the contribution of the affected community, either through fundraising, decision-making, and/or volunteer time and labor.
- e. Evaluation – what outcomes do you hope to achieve and how will you determine whether your project was a success?
- f. Sustainability-- Explain how the project will be sustained after the end of the grant period.
- g. Timeline – provide a brief timeline describing project implementation, including dates and key milestones.
- h. RPCV/FoN sponsor – identify the Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (RPCV) or Friends of Nepal member who is sponsoring this proposal and will aid with reporting on the progress and completion of the funded activities to FoN. This person must include a letter of commitment with the application. This person may not be a paid staff person with the applicant organization. FoN is likely to contact the sponsor to ask for more information.

#### 4. Budget & Budget Narrative

Budget should include the following categories:

- Personnel
- Supplies
- Equipment
- Contractual (labor/technical assistance)
- Transportation
- Other

Budget Narrative (1-page or less) should describe each budget item in detail, including rates for labor and exact costs for supplies/equipment (if known). Be sure to explain how the total for each line item is derived.

#### 5. Attachments

- Letter of commitment from Project Sponsor (see qualifications above) stating their commitment to acting as a project liaison as necessary to facilitate communication.
- Brief cover letter from authorized representative of the applicant organization
- List of other project funders, if any, along with amounts, and status of those funds (committed, in-hand, pending). It is very important that if your application does not request funding in full, that we understand where the balance of the funds will come from.

**Application Completed By:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit this application and all supporting materials to FoN Project Committee Chair, Val Stori at [valstori@yahoo.com](mailto:valstori@yahoo.com) by 15 June 2019.