



## **FALL 2025 & SPRING 2026 GRANT CYCLES FUNDING ELIGIBILITY & GUIDELINES**

### **FUNDING CYCLE DEADLINES**

#### **2025 Fall Funding Grant Cycle**

<b>Application process opens</b>	<b>Application submission deadline</b>	<b>Thunderbirds Charities notifies applicant regarding funding decisions</b>
<b>August 1, 2025</b>	<b>September 1, 2025</b>	<b>Early December 2025</b>

#### **2026 SPRING FUNDING GRANT CYCLE**

<b>Application process opens</b>	<b>Application submission deadline</b>	<b>Thunderbirds Charities notifies applicant regarding funding decisions</b>
<b>February 1, 2026</b>	<b>March 1, 2026</b>	<b>Early June 2026</b>

Thunderbirds Charities accepts proposals on or before the due date and appreciates those organizations that submit prior to the deadline. All materials must be received online no later than 5:00pm MST the day of the deadline. If you have questions, please contact Cheryl Ruggiero at 602-216-7325 or [cruggiero@wmphoenixopen.com](mailto:cruggiero@wmphoenixopen.com).

### **MISSION**

Established in 1986, Thunderbirds Charities is the philanthropic arm of The Thunderbirds, dedicated to distributing the charitable funds raised through the WM Phoenix Open. For nearly four decades, the mission of Thunderbirds Charities has remained steadfast: to support children and families, assist those in need, and enhance the quality of life throughout the Greater Phoenix Metropolitan Area.

Each year, Thunderbirds Charities awards grants to nonprofit organizations that address critical community needs in the following areas:

- At-risk youth and families
- Community outreach and quality of life initiatives
- Education
- Services for individuals with physical and mental challenges
- Efforts to eliminate domestic violence, homelessness, and poverty

Through this ongoing commitment, Thunderbirds Charities continues to make a lasting impact across the Valley.

### **GEOGRAPHIC PRIORITIES**

Thunderbirds Charities accepts requests from organizations serving the Greater Phoenix Metropolitan Area. Greater Phoenix Metropolitan Area is defined as Maricopa and Pinal Counties.

### **GRANT ELIGIBILITY & GUIDELINES:**

Thunderbirds Charities is proud to support organizations making a difference in Arizona communities. To be eligible for funding, applicants must be a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization **based in Arizona**. Please note that all applications are reviewed at the sole discretion of Thunderbirds Charities. We reserve the right to accept or decline any application, approve or deny funding proposals, and modify eligibility criteria at any time. Grant amounts vary annually and are determined by proceeds from the **WM Phoenix Open**. Additional guidelines may apply and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

For more information or to begin your application, please refer to the detailed eligibility criteria below or read through the FAQ's.

### **ELIGIBILITY: Thunderbirds Charities does not currently provide funding to the following:**

- Nonprofit organizations whose 501(c)(3) status has been in effect for less than three years.
- Organizations that discriminate based on race, color, gender, national origin, marital status, age, disability, or veteran status.
- Individuals.
- Political, labor, fraternal or service organizations.
- Advocacy or lobbying activities for issue related topics.
- Medical or scientific research.
- Professional societies, trade associations or membership organizations.
- Religious organizations, churches or programs that are purely denominational in purpose.
- Foundations or organizations which are themselves, grant-making entities.
- Endowments, Fellowships or Scholarships (for college purposes).
- Individual schools: public, charter, private, colleges, universities, or their support organizations (to include but not limited to; Booster Clubs, PTA/PTO's, athletic teams, bands, performing arts groups, alumni associations, or school foundations).
- Debt reduction campaigns.
- Ongoing support or multi-year support.
- Projects or programs outside of Greater Phoenix Metropolitan area unless the project/program primarily serves Greater Phoenix Metropolitan area residents.

### **BEFORE SUBMITTING A GRANT PROPOSAL:**

**Step 1: Read the Grant Guidelines and Frequently Asked Questions.**

**Step 2: All proposals must be submitted through Thunderbirds Charities website**  
**([www.thunderbirdscharities.org](http://www.thunderbirdscharities.org)).**

**Step 3: Submit a proposal narrative (please do not use bullet points). Requirements include, but are not limited to:**

- A. Narrative overview of the organization [maximum word count = 225].
  1. The organization's history and mission. Please include a brief description of current projects/programs and accomplishments in our community. In addition, the demographic of the target population, the number of individuals served, and geographic area served.

- B. Summarize the purpose of the request [maximum word count = 100].
1. Please provide three sentences or less that are a summary of the specific request.
- C. A description of the project for which funding is being sought [maximum word count = 500].  
Please provide in a narrative format **(please do not use bullet points)**:
1. What problem or need will your project address in our community?
  2. What is your proposed solution to this problem or need, and how do you plan to implement it?
  3. Why is this work important?
  4. The population and geographic area you plan to serve, and how they will benefit from the project, including the number of individuals that will be served.
  5. The program/project's timetable, how success or failure will be measured, and how the project will be sustained going forward.

**Step 4: Required supplemental materials include, but are not limited to:**

- A. The organization's IRS 501(c)(3) tax-exempt determination letter. Using a "second party" 501(c)(3) status is not acceptable.
- B. The organization's IRS Form 990 or 990-EZ for the most recently completed fiscal year. **At the time of grant submission, if your IRS Form 990/990 EZ return is older than 15 months from your fiscal year-end date, the application will be rejected.**

**EXAMPLE DATES FOR 990/990 EZ SUBMISSION AS IT RELATES TO 15 MONTHS**

**2025 Fall Funding Grant Cycle**  
(Based on application due date of September 1, 2025)

CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION'S FISCAL YEAR END	MOST RECENTLY COMPLETED FISCAL YEAR
March 31 <sup>ST</sup>	March 2025
June 30 <sup>th</sup>	June 2024
September 30 <sup>th</sup>	September 2024
December 31 <sup>st</sup>	December 2024

**2026 Spring Funding Grant Cycle**  
(Based on application due date of March 1, 2026)

CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION'S FISCAL YEAR END	MOST RECENTLY COMPLETED FISCAL YEAR
March 31 <sup>ST</sup>	March 2025
June 30 <sup>th</sup>	June 2025
September 30 <sup>th</sup>	September 2025
December 31 <sup>st</sup>	December 2024

- c. **Financials for the two most recently completed fiscal years: audited, reviewed, compiled, or internally generated financial statements for the most recently completed fiscal year and the fiscal year immediately prior.** Each financial statement must include statement of financial position (or equivalent), statement of activities (or equivalent), cash flow statement, appropriate footnotes, and accountant's reports, if applicable. **At time of grant submission, if your financial statements are older than 15 months and 27 months, respectively, from your fiscal year-end date, application will be rejected.** \*A Fiscal Year covers a 12-month period over which a business does its accounting, for tax filing, and for other accounting purposes.

**EXAMPLE DATES FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDS' AS IT RELATES TO 15 MONTHS/27 MONTHS**

**2025 Fall Funding Grant Cycle**  
**(Based on application due date of September 1, 2025)**

<b>CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION'S FISCAL YEAR END</b>	<b>MOST RECENTLY COMPLETED FISCAL YEAR</b>	<b>FISCAL YEAR IMMEDIATELY PRIOR</b>
March 31 <sup>st</sup>	March 31, 2025	March 31, 2024
June 30 <sup>th</sup>	June 30, 2024	June 30, 2023
September 30 <sup>th</sup>	September 30, 2024	September 30, 2023
December 31 <sup>st</sup>	December 31, 2024	December 31, 2023

**2026 Spring Funding Grant Cycle**  
**(Based on application due date of March 1, 2026)**

<b>CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION'S FISCAL YEAR END</b>	<b>MOST RECENTLY COMPLETED FISCAL YEAR</b>	<b>FISCAL YEAR IMMEDIATELY PRIOR</b>
March 31 <sup>st</sup>	March 31, 2025	March 31, 2024
June 30 <sup>th</sup>	June 30, 2025	June 30, 2024
September 30 <sup>th</sup>	September 30, 2025	September 30, 2024
December 31 <sup>st</sup>	December 31, 2024	December 31, 2023

- D. Annual operating budget for the current or projected fiscal year with comparable columns for the most recently completed fiscal year's budget versus the actual. **INSTRUCTIONS AND EXAMPLE AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS DOCUMENT.**
- E. Projected budget for the specific project/program for which you are requesting funding for, with a column designating where requested funding would be applied, as well as the organization's corresponding fiscal year budget. **INSTRUCTIONS AND EXAMPLE AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS DOCUMENT.**
- F. A list of funds raised to date and from whom, for the specific program/project for which you are requesting funding (amounts of \$5,000 and above). **Please try to keep to one page.**
- G. A complete list of corporations and foundations that have given to the organization in the previous fiscal year (amounts of \$5,000 and above). Please be sure to include the dollar amount per donor. **Please try to keep to one page.**
- H. A list of the organization's Board of Directors, including their primary business or professional affiliation. **Please try to keep to one page.**
- I. Any additional documentation (for multiple pages or documents, please combine as one PDF).

THIS IS NOT INTENDED AS A FILLABLE FORM.

PLEASE USE THIS EXAMPLE AS A REFERENCE TOOL FOR YOUR BUDGET SUBMISSION.

**ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET INSTRUCTIONS - PLEASE TRY TO KEEP TO ONE PAGE**

**HEADING INSTRUCTIONS:**

- First line is organization’s name.
- Second line is fiscal year during which the grant will be used (mm/dd/yy - mm/dd/yy).
- Third line is previous fiscal year date (mm/dd/yy - mm/dd/yy).

**COLUMNS INSTRUCTIONS:**

- 1. First column is your organization’s budget categories.
  - 2. Second column is your organization’s current year or projected budget (if you are within 3 months of your fiscal year end, please use your projected budget as current).
  - 3. Third column is your organization’s most recently completed fiscal year budget.
  - 4. Fourth column is your organization’s most recently completed fiscal year actual.
- (Please provide narrative to further explain budget, at bottom of document, if applicable.)

Organization Name	Organization Name		
Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year during which the grant will be used (mm/dd/yy - mm/dd/yy)		
Previous Fiscal Year	Previous Fiscal Year (mm/dd/yy - mm/dd/yy)		
COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2	COLUMN 3	COLUMN 4
EXAMPLE CATEGORY ACCOUNTS BELOW	Projected Organization Budget	Previous Fiscal Year Budget	Previous Fiscal Year Actual
Income Sources			
Foundation and Corporate Grants			
Government Grants and Contracts			
Individual Contributions			
Earned Income			
In-Kind Income			
Investments			
Other Income (please explain)			
Total Income			
Expenses			
Salaries and Wages (please indicate FTE)			
Employee Benefits and Taxes			
Professional and Outside Services			
Fundraising/Development			
Conference and Training			
Travel			
Equipment			
Insurance Expense			
Marketing/Advertising			
Postage and Delivery			
Printing			
Rent / Facility Costs			
Supplies and Materials			
Technology			
Telecommunications			
Administrative			
Other Expense (please explain)			
Miscellaneous			
Total Non Personnel Costs			
Total Expenses			
Excess of Revenue Over Expenses			
Budget Narrative: Please be sure to include narrative to help explain your budget.			
*Please export your organizations existing budgets into spreadsheet format with the different columns outlined in example*			

THIS IS NOT INTENDED AS A FILLABLE FORM.

PLEASE USE THIS EXAMPLE AS A REFERENCE TOOL FOR YOUR BUDGET SUBMISSION.

SPECIFIC PROJECT / PROGRAM BUDGET INSTRUCTIONS - PLEASE TRY TO KEEP TO ONE PAGE

HEADING INSTRUCTIONS:

- First line is organization’s name.
- Second line is project / program title.
- Third line is fiscal year during which the grant will be used (mm/dd/yy - mm/dd/yy).

COLUMNS INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. First column is your organization’s budget categories related to your specific request.
  - 2. Second column is the total project/program budget for requested funding.
  - 3. Third Column is the designation of Thunderbirds Charities potential grant funds.
  - 4. Fourth column is your organization’s corresponding fiscal year budget.
- (Please provide narrative to further explain budget, at bottom of document, if applicable.)

Organization Name	Organization Name		
Project Title	Project/Program Title		
Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year during which the grant will be used (mm/dd/yy - mm/dd/yy)		
COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2	COLUMN 3	COLUMN 4
EXAMPLE CATEGORY ACCOUNTS BELOW	Total Project/ Program Budget	Thunderbirds Charities Request Amount	Total Organization Budget
Income Sources			
Foundation and Corporate Grants			
Government Grants and Contracts			
Individual Contributions			
Earned Income			
In-Kind Income			
Investment			
Other Income (please explain)			
Total Income			
Expenses			
Salaries and Wages (please indicate FTE)			
Employee Benefits and Taxes			
Total Personnel Costs			
Professional and Outside Services			
Consultants			
Equipment			
Fundraising/Development			
Insurance Expense			
Marketing/Advertising			
Postage and Delivery			
Printing			
Conferences and Training			
Rent and Occupancy			
Supplies and Materials			
Technology			
Travel			
Administrative			
Other Expense (please explain)			
Miscellaneous			
Total Non Personnel Costs			
Total Expenses			
Excess of Revenue Over Expenses			
Budget Narrative: Please be sure to include narrative to help explain project / program budget.			
*Please export organizations existing budgets into a spreadsheet format with the different columns outlined in example above*			