GRANT CYCLE
FUNDING ELIGIBILITY AND GUIDELINES

THUNDERBIRDS Charities
MAKING A DIFFERENCE

FALL 2026/SPRING 2027

FUNDING CYCLE DEADLINES

2026 FALL FUNDING GRANT CYCLE		
Application process opens	Application submission deadline	Thunderbirds Charities notifies applicant regarding funding decisions
August 1, 2026	**September 1, 2026**	**Early December 2026**

2027 SPRING FUNDING GRANT CYCLE		
Application process opens	Application submission deadline	Thunderbirds Charities notifies applicant regarding funding decisions
February 1, 2027	**March 1, 2027**	**Early June 2027**

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**.

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.

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)*.

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 = 250)*.
Organization's history and mission. Please include a brief description of current projects/programs and accomplishments in our community. In addition, the demographic of 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.

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STEP 3
(continued)

C. A description of the project for which funding is being sought *(maximum word count = 500)*.

Please include in a narrative format *(please do not use bullet points)*:

1. What problem or need does your project address in our community?
2. What is your proposed solution to this problem or need and how do you plan to implement?
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 timetable of the program, 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 time of grant submission, if your IRS Form 990/990 EZ return is older than 15 months from your fiscal year end date, application will be rejected.**

EXAMPLE DATES FOR 990/990 EZ SUBMISSION AS IT RELATES TO 15 MONTHS	
2026 FALL FUNDING GRANT CYCLE	
(Based on application due date of September 1, 2026)	
CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION'S FISCAL YEAR END	**MOST RECENTLY COMPLETED FISCAL YEAR**
March 31st	March 2026
June 30th	June 2025
September 30th	September 2025
December 31st	December 2025

2027 SPRING FUNDING GRANT CYCLE	
(Based on application due date of March 1, 2027)	
CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION'S FISCAL YEAR END	**MOST RECENTLY COMPLETED FISCAL YEAR**
March 31st	March 2026
June 30th	June 2026
September 30th	September 2026
December 31st	December 2025

STEP 4
(continued)

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 a statement of financial position (or equivalent), a 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

2026 FALL FUNDING GRANT CYCLE

(Based on application due date of September 1, 2026)

CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION'S FISCAL YEAR END	MOST RECENTLY COMPLETED FISCAL YEAR	FISCAL YEAR IMMEDIATELY PRIOR
March 31st	March 31, 2026	March 31, 2025
June 30th	June 30, 2025	June 30, 2024
September 30th	September 30, 2025	September 30, 2024
December 31st	December 31, 2025	December 31, 2024

2027 SPRING FUNDING GRANT CYCLE

(Based on application due date of March 1, 2027)

CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION'S FISCAL YEAR END	MOST RECENTLY COMPLETED FISCAL YEAR	FISCAL YEAR IMMEDIATELY PRIOR
March 31st	March 31, 2026	March 31, 2025
June 30th	June 30, 2026	June 30, 2025
September 30th	September 30, 2026	September 30, 2025
December 31st	December 31, 2025	December 31, 2024

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STEP 4
(continued)

D. Annual operating budget worksheet for the current fiscal year with comparable columns for most current completed previous year's budget versus actual.

INSTRUCTIONS AND EXAMPLE AT THE END OF THIS DOCUMENT.

E. Budget worksheet for the specific project/program for which you are requesting funding with a column outlining where requested funding would be applied, as well as the charitable organization's fiscal year budget.

INSTRUCTIONS AND EXAMPLE AT THE END 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 charitable 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 combined as one PDF)*.

ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET INSTRUCTIONS

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HEADER 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)*.

Please provide narrative to further explain budget, at bottom of document, if applicable.

COLUMN INSTRUCTIONS:

COLUMN 1 Enter your organization's **budget categories**.

COLUMN 2 Enter 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).

COLUMN 3 Enter your organization's **most current complete fiscal year budget**.

COLUMN 4 Enter your organization's **most current complete fiscal year actual**.

ORGANIZATION NAME	*Your organization's 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 *(Budget categories)*	**COLUMN 2** *(CURRENT year total budget)*	**COLUMN 3** *(Current complete fiscal year budget)*	**COLUMN 4** *(Current complete 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			
Total Personnel Costs			
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			

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

Please export your organizations existing budgets into a spreadsheet format with comparable columns, similar to this sample.

PLEASE TRY TO KEEP TO ONE PAGE.

* **Budget Narrative:** *Please be sure to include narrative to help explain project / program budget*

SPECIFIC PROJECT / PROGRAM BUDGET INSTRUCTIONS

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HEADER 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)*.

Please provide narrative to further explain budget, at bottom of document, if applicable.

COLUMN INSTRUCTIONS:

COLUMN 1 Enter your organization's **budget categories related to your specific request**.

COLUMN 2 Enter the **total project/program budget** for requested funding.

COLUMN 3 Enter the **allocation of Thunderbirds Charities potential grant funds**.

COLUMN 4 Enter your organization's **budget for the year the grant would be used.**

ORGANIZATION NAME	*Your organization's 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 *(Budget categories)*	**COLUMN 2** *(Total Project/Program Budget)*	**COLUMN 3** *(Thunderbirds Charities Request Amount)*	**COLUMN 4** *(Total Organization Budget)*
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			
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			

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

Please export your organizations existing budgets into a spreadsheet format with comparable columns, similar to this sample.

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* **Budget Narrative:** *Please be sure to include narrative to help explain project / program budget*