



Groundwork Rhode Island:
Building Capacity for Urban Environmental Education and Stewardship in Providence
Request for Project Proposals
Summer and Fall 2017

RFP Overview: Groundwork Rhode Island (GWRI) seeks non-profit partners to deliver one-time and/or high-dosage environmental education programming at our three urban green spaces in Providence: an urban farm/greenhouse, tree nursery, and community garden. *Please see attached descriptions and images of each site to better familiarize yourself with them.* Applicants may apply for mini-grants up to \$5,000 to deliver this programming, focusing on elementary and middle-school-age Providence youth. We will select up to 10 grantees throughout the year. It is highly likely that selected recipients will not receive the full \$5,000 for their projects, so please take this into consideration while preparing your proposal. This RFP is for both Summer and Fall 2017 programming.

Who May Apply: This RFP is open to members of the RI Environmental Education Association (RIEEA) only. Successful applicants MUST be a recognized 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization (including universities). For individuals who are unaffiliated with a 501 (c) 3 entity and are interested in applying, please contact Groundwork Rhode Island to discuss options with us. If your organization is currently unaffiliated with RIEEA, you may become a member at any time by visiting <http://rieea.org/membership/>. RIEEA membership costs can be included in your proposed budget.

Timeline:

RFP is released – May 10, 2017

Summer Proposal Submission Deadline – June 15, 2017

Fall Proposal Submission Deadline – July 15, 2017

Anticipated Timeframe for Program Implementation – Summer: July 3, 2017 through August 31, 2017; and Fall: September 11, 2017 through November 17, 2017

Organization and Project Background: Groundwork Rhode Island (GWRI) is a non-profit, community-based environmental organization dedicated to creating healthier and more resilient urban communities in Rhode Island. We achieve this through our many urban stewardship programs, which create economic opportunity for Rhode Island's urban residents, and at the same time physically improve our shared urban environment, especially in economically-distressed areas. We believe our mission can only be achieved by meeting the community's dual needs of environmental sustainability and economic prosperity in partnership with residents, businesses, and other partners.

All of our programs seek to support residents in the development of economic resources that improve their individual lives and communities, as well as improve both the natural and built urban environment. Our programs include Adult Job Training, GroundCorp landscaping social venture, Green



Team summer youth employment, and more. We also provide a community tool bank for local residents and businesses, rain barrels and trees available for purchase, technical assistance to residents and commercial entities seeking to better manage stormwater on their properties or convert to landscaping with native plants, and other expertise in the areas of brownfield redevelopment and community engagement on environmental sustainability initiatives.

Lastly, and most relevant to this RFP, GWRI manages three green spaces in Providence as well: Hope Tree Nursery, Ring Street Community Garden, and Prairie Avenue Greenhouse and Urban Farm. Our hope is that through this RFP, we will be able to add to our capacity to activate these urban green spaces and provide quality environmental education and other programming that serves the surrounding community. This project is being funded through an EPA Environmental Education grant.

Project Goals and Priorities:

- Providing high-quality environmental education to youth residing in high-poverty Providence neighborhoods, communities of color, and multi-lingual communities
- Utilizing urban green spaces for environmental education field trips that are within walking distance of schools
- Providing culturally-relevant environmental education activities and workshops that draw from an interdisciplinary approach (science, arts/humanities, math, engineering, civics and government, history/society/culture)
- Developing curiosity and enthusiasm for environmental issues and stewardship among youth participants
- Connecting with school curriculum and the needs of teachers
- Creating replicable educational modules that can be used by a variety of organizations and entities beyond the scope of this project

Proposal Guidelines and Other Details:

- Proposals should detail how you would utilize one or more of GWRI's urban sites for a K-8 environmental education initiative such as a workshop series, school camp, one-time onsite program, or other activities. Proposals for high-dosage programming (more than just a one-time workshop) will be prioritized in the selection process.
- All programming will be conducted during school hours or immediately after school. There is also potential to provide programming during spring break if desired.
- Curriculum modules should be researched, gathered, developed, and implemented to draw on best practices in environmental education in urban settings.
- Connections to classroom science curriculum should be made where possible.
- Use the EPA's definition of Environmental Education as a guide as you create your proposal (can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/education/what-environmental-education>)

- Applicants must agree for their curriculum modules to be posted on both GWRI and RIEEA websites for future use.
- Results of project will be shared with RIEEA membership at Annual Meeting, and at the regional New England NEEEA conference.
- RIEEA will assist in aligning the final curriculum modules with Guidelines for Excellence in Environmental Education (NAAEE) as well as connect modules with both the Common Core and NGSS.
- Curriculum and feedback from program presenters and attendees will be used by RIEEA to initiate a new compilation of "Best Practices in Environmental Education" for RI practitioners.
- Photo documentation of each program will also be required.
- All grantees will be required to conduct their programs at GWRI's outdoor sites. It is acceptable to conduct supplementary programming in the immediate neighborhood around the site as well – such as tree plantings, nature walks, etc.

Selection Criteria:

- 1) Demonstrated history of offering high-quality Environmental Education or related programs.
- 2) Experience working in urban settings and with schoolchildren who are predominantly children of color from low/moderate income households.
- 3) Commitment to our project's environmental and educational priorities.
- 4) Proposal includes significant hands-on, experiential learning components and/or includes hands-on stewardship activities such as tree or plant planting, weeding and other maintenance, litter pickup/beautification, construction of new site features, etc. (GWRI can collaborate with you to support these activities as needed.) Proposals that incorporate art or writing workshops as vehicles for environmental education are also welcome and encouraged.
- 5) Relevance to desired programming identified through initial surveys conducted of prospective teacher participants.
- 6) High-dosage programming is preferred over one-time workshops, but both will be considered.
- 7) Applicant is affiliated with an eligible 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and RIEEA member organization.

Please answer the following questions, as concisely as possible. Proposals should be no more than 2-3 pages total, sent in either pdf or .doc format. You may create a new document using the following as a template if you need additional room to answer. **Completed proposals must be submitted to abaez@groundworkri.org by June 15, 2017 (Summer) or July 15, 2017 (Fall). If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Amanda Baez at (401) 305-7174 or abaez@groundworkri.org.**



Name of Applicant Organization-

Do you represent a 501 (c) 3 non-profit agency or organization? _____

Contact Person Information:

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Is your organization a RIEEA member? ____Yes ____No

Your organization must be an organizational member of RIEEA in order to be considered. If your organization is not currently a member, you can become one through 2018 and still participate. Contact Jeanine Silversmith at info@rieea.org for more information before returning this application.

Tell us about your proposed program, including whether this is a new program or has been conducted previously.

What community, educational, and/or environmental need/s does your program address?

Which GWRI site would your program utilize?

_____ Community Garden

_____ Greenhouse/Urban Farm

_____ Tree Nursery

Which grade/grades does your program focus on?



How many sessions would your program require?

How many youth could participate in your program?

Do you have a preference for conducting programming during school hours or after school?

Will your program include any components such as plantings, construction, or installation that would require maintenance after completion?

A detailed program budget and amount requested (no more than \$5,000). *Please include how you might be able to manage your program if you were not given the full amount requested.*