

2024 CITGO Caring for our Coast Gulf Region Grants Program

Request for Proposals

Proposal Deadline: January 31, 2024

Overview: Restore America's Estuaries (RAE) is excited to again partner with CITGO to provide grants to organizations and groups in the Gulf of Mexico region interested in hosting volunteer-based clean-up, conservation, or restoration events to protect and enhance the Gulf's coasts and waters. These grants are intended to provide groups with funding to host new events, or to increase the impact of already-planned events, aimed at engaging Gulf-region communities in the protection of their local natural resources. Funds should be used to support event activities; for example, to purchase trash bags and gloves for a shoreline cleanup or to purchase plants and tools for a restoration event.

Funds may not be used for political lobbying or otherwise attempting to influence legislation or specific elections, fundraising, budget shortfalls, general operating costs, scholarships or grants to individuals, or any other purpose beyond the scope of this request for proposals.

Proposal Due Date: Applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time on January 31, 2024. Late applications will not be considered.

Proposal Submission: [The online application form can be accessed here.](#) A printable application can be [found here.](#) For mailing instructions email applications@estuaries.org. If you prefer a phone or video call interview, please email srubio@estuaries.org. You will be asked the same questions as the form and will be evaluated on the same criteria; your choice of venue for answering the questions will not impact your likelihood of receiving a grant.

Available Funding: Approximately \$44,000 will be available through this program.

Grant Amount: The maximum amount that will be awarded to any single organization is \$4,000. There is no minimum funding amount.

Project Period: Projects must take place between February 1 and Aug 23rd, 2024.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants will be federal and state registered nonprofits, organizations with fiscal partners, and other organizations that do not make a profit **in the Gulf of Mexico region**. Organizations outside the Gulf of Mexico region, for-profit entities, organizations with a yearly budget of over 10 million dollars, and individuals are not eligible.

Evaluation Criteria: Project proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Potential for this funding to increase event capacity and/or impact – e.g. additional volunteers/hours, additional number of plants, miles, etc. planted/improved
- Expected impact of the event on local communities and ecosystems – e.g. number of volunteers, amount of shoreline cleaned, acres planted, etc.
- Demonstration of community engagement and outreach – e.g. expected number of participants, future follow-up events planned
- Funding need

- Special Consideration will be given to high-ranking proposals from diverse groups, or organizations that partner with diverse groups, and communities that have traditionally been under-engaged with coastal conservation efforts or are new to competitive grant funding

Grantee Requirements: Projects selected for funding will be required to submit a short report to Restore America's Estuaries by 60 days after their project is complete or by August 31st, 2024, whichever is sooner. The report will detail how the funds were used and outcomes of the event. The report should also include:

- At least 8 high-quality photographs from your event, including at least one group photo with signage should it be provided
- One blog post written by the grant recipient to potentially be featured on RAE's website (Ideally 250-500 words)
- Grantees should recognize both Restore America's Estuaries and CITGO on all advertising and promotion related to the event. Grantees are expected to request approval and follow RAE and CITGO brand guidelines for their advertising and promotional materials.
- Grantees will be expected to allow Restore America's Estuaries and CITGO use of their logo and/or name as it relates only to the event
- Grant recipients will be required to attend an informational video conference in February to discuss best practices and safety guidelines for hosting a successful event.

Contact Information: For questions about this RFP, please email applications@estuaries.org.