



Arrowhead Environmental Stewardship Fund Grant Guidelines

Purpose

The purpose of the Arrowhead Environmental Stewardship Fund (Fund) is to support local nonprofits working on water and land conservation across the Santa Ana River Watershed (Watershed). The Fund provides grants to local nonprofits working to conserve, restore, and strengthen the Watershed.

Funding Priorities

The Fund will empower local communities to help safeguard water quantity, water quality, and healthy ecosystems that are foundational to community and environmental health. Requests for funding should align with the following key priority areas:

- Water scarcity
- Watershed resilience
- Habitat restoration
- Wildfire fuel reduction

Projects that demonstrate the ability to generate a volumetric water benefit are preferred.

Application Terms

Applicants invited to submit a proposal should note:

- Maximum grant awards are for up to \$50,000 for a one-year funding period
 - Please note, organizations may reapply in future grants cycles, but renewal of grant award is not guaranteed
- Grant period is for one year, estimated November 2026 – October 2027

Applications are accepted for Santa Ana River Watershed projects that will:

- Conserve, enhance, and/or restore the watershed
- Improve the quality and value of the watershed, including education for responsible utilization of natural resources of the watershed
- Support stormwater management and/or reduce flood risk
- Strengthen local water resilience
- Reverse degradation
- Generate a volumetric water benefit
- Demonstrate collaboration among organizations
- Leverage funding from other sources

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants include:

- 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, or organizations fiscally sponsored by 501c3 nonprofits
- Proposed project must occur within the Santa Ana River Watershed. However, applicant organizations may be headquartered within or outside the watershed's boundaries.

Applicants will be required to submit the following as part of the application:

- **Current List of Board of Directors and Affiliations**
- **Most Current Annual Operating Budget**
- **Most Recent Annual Audited Financial Statement, if applicable**
 - **Submit only if your organization is required to prepare annual independent audited financial statements**
- **IRS Determination Letter**
 - **If fiscally sponsored, submit fiscal sponsor's IRS Determination Letter and fiscal sponsorship agreement**

Review and Selection Process

The Arrowhead Environmental Stewardship Fund Advisory Committee (Committee) will evaluate eligible applications based on the clarity, feasibility, and alignment with the Fund purpose, as well as the overall quality of responses. Award decisions will be made in coordination with IECF. There is a selection preference for projects that generate a volumetric water benefit.

Application Deadline and Review

The deadline to submit an online application is September 15, 2026. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis. Applications will be screened for eligibility and completeness by the Inland Empire Community Foundation (IECF) staff, and Committee will evaluate eligible applications and submit grant recommendations to the Inland Empire Community Foundation Board of Directors for ratification. **All applicants will be notified of the results in writing by October 30, 2026.**

Timeline:

- August 14, 2026: Grant opportunity announced
 - [Apply Here](#)
- August 20, 2026: Technical assistance workshop
 - At 2PM PST – [Join here](#)
- September 15, 2026: Applications Due
- October 30, 2026: Decisions released
- November 2026: Execution of grant agreements and distribution of funds