

Civic Engagement and Environmental Impact Grants

Guidelines for Grant Applications First Solar Corporate Charitable Fund of the Toledo Community Foundation

First Solar manufactures solar modules with an advanced semiconductor technology and provides comprehensive photovoltaic system solutions. By continually driving down manufacturing costs, First Solar is delivering an economically viable alternative to fossil fuel generation today. From raw material sourcing through end-of-life collection and recycling, First Solar is focused on creating cost-effective, renewable energy solutions that protect and enhance the environment.

The First Solar Corporate Charitable Fund of the Toledo Community Foundation seeks to improve the quality of life in communities around the world. Emphasis is placed on programs that support the First Solar Corporate giving values which include: focusing on “green” education initiatives, access to clean energy and water in underserved areas, and furthering the development of innovative and sustainable technologies. Priority will be given to organizations that make a significant impact in communities that share our giving values.

As the Fund seeks to support projects and services making a meaningful impact, grant requests must be for projects or services that cost or exceed \$10,000 (USD). Requests under \$10,000 should be directed to the First Solar local office nearest the grant seeker. In principle, requests should be in English. However, applicants may request translation assistance.

Grants will only be awarded to a) nonprofit, charitable organizations that are designated as having tax-exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Service code or b) organizations capable of demonstrating the ability to fulfill the charitable purpose of a grant award. The Fund may limit the number of requests accepted by any one requestor at its discretion.

Grant application process

Proposals will be formally reviewed four times annually. The deadline dates for proposals are February 1, May 1, August 1 and November 1. Proposals must be submitted through the First Solar Corporate Charitable Fund of the Toledo Community Foundation’s online application process. Proposals must be received by midnight (EST) of the application deadline in order to be considered for funding.

Application contents

To be considered for funding, organizations must submit a proposal, no longer than 800 words, which states the specific nature of the project, the goals and objectives to be achieved, and the population that will benefit. Proposals should clearly delineate the amount of funding requested and how funds will be used.

Through this funding opportunity, the First Solar Corporate Charitable Fund will not consider requests that seek:

- Support for sectarian activities of religious organizations.
- Financial assistance with the annual campaign of an organization.
- Requests for scholarships.

Grant review process

Grant applications are carefully reviewed by the Foundation's professional staff and presented to the grant review committee of the First Solar Corporate Charitable Fund for final grant consideration. Applicant organizations will be notified of the approval or denial of funding requests by the Foundation approximately eight weeks after the application deadline.

Additional documentation required from approved grantees

Approved grantees will be required to submit documentation to the Foundation before a grant can be awarded. It is preferred that the documents be submitted in English.

Grantee organizations with principal headquarters located in the United States must submit the following due diligence documents:

- 1) The names and affiliations of the applicant organization's board of directors.
- 2) Brief background/history of the requesting organization, including: when and how the organization was established; its mission/purpose; accomplishments to date; and a listing of all current programs and services.
- 3) The organization's most recent audit. If audited financial statements are not available, the unaudited income and expense statement and balance sheet must be provided.
- 4) The organization's current operating budget.
- 5) Copy of the applicant's tax exemption letter from the Internal Revenue Service.

Grantee organizations with principal headquarters located outside the United States must submit the following due diligence documents:

- 1) The names and affiliations of the applicant organization's board of directors.
- 2) A brief description of past and current programs of the organization. The grantee should note other charitable activities that have been conducted.
- 3) The date the organization was founded and a description of the institutional character of and function of the proposed grantee (educational institution, research institution, etc).
- 4) A listing of other foundation grants that the grantee organization has received, including the amount, purpose and date when the grant was awarded. Note: If this list is in excess of 25 grants, the grantee should contact Toledo Community Foundation.
- 5) A copy of the charter and/or bylaws of the organization. If English copies of these documents are available, they should be submitted.

For additional information or to discuss a possible submission, please contact:

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