



## 2018 Grassroots Grant Application Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: What are the most important factors The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation uses in its decision-making process for the GRO1000 Grassroots Grants?**

**A:** The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation evaluates a number of critical factors based on the information provided in the application form, including, but not limited to:

- The project's positive influence and impact on a community.
- The project's alignment with the mission of The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation and its philanthropic programs, including a strong involvement of area youth and if a garden plans to donate a portion of the harvest to those in need.
- The organization's commitment to the maintenance and sustainability of the project, including its plans for growth, community involvement and additional funding opportunities.

**Q: What is the timeline for grant submission?**

**A:** For 2018 funding, The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation will accept applications for grants starting on January 2, 2018. The application deadline is 11:59 p.m. EST on February 19, 2018.

**Q: How many GRO1000 Grassroots Grants are awarded each year?**

**A:** The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation awards up to 130 Grassroots Grants throughout the United States each year. The majority of grants awarded are in the amount of \$500. A selection of the highest scoring applicants are awarded \$1,500.

**Q: We are not classified as a 501(c)(3) charity. Can we still apply?**

**A:** Generally no. There are, however, certain organizations that qualify as tax-exempt within the meaning of the Internal Revenue Service code and are eligible to apply without a 501(c)(3) designation. Examples are school districts, universities and government entities. If you are a school group that has not achieved 501(c)(3) status, please use your district's EIN number.

**Q: We do not have a 501(c)(3) classification. Can we apply through a fiscal sponsor?**

**A:** Yes. If your organization has not achieved 501(c)(3) status, a fiscal sponsor who has achieved it is required. If you are a school group that has not achieved 501(c)(3) status, please use your district's EIN number.

**Q: Are we required to provide documentation of our 501(c)(3) status?**

**A:** Yes. During the application process, you will be required to upload three verification documents—your organization's W9 form, IRS determination letter, and either your organization's formation document or charter. You must provide these documents in order to apply for a grant, and the organization name on all your documents must match exactly unless documentation is otherwise provided to explain a discrepancy. If you are a school group that has not achieved 501(c)3 status, please upload your district's W9 form and a letter on school

district letterhead, signed by a school district official, stating that the school in question falls under the jurisdiction of the school district, a governmental entity. You may upload this letter twice, as verification document B and C.

Example letter:

*Dear Sir/Madam:*

*Please accept this letter as confirmation that [name of school] located at [address of school] falls under the jurisdiction of [Name of School District]. [Name of School District] is a governmental entity.*

*Regards,  
[School District Official]*

**Q: Our organization has received a GRO1000 Grassroots Grant previously. Can we apply again?**

**A:** It has been the hope of The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation to help build and enhance as many new and unique gardens and greenspaces as possible. With this in mind, each year a new group of worthy organizations has been selected and awarded with **GRO1000** funding.

**Q: Are there specific guidelines on how the grant funds should be used?**

**A:** Grant funds should be used only for the designated purpose as described in the grant application and subsequent grant notification letter, and not for any other purpose without the Foundation's prior written approval.

**Q: If awarded a grant, are there reporting requirements of our organization?**

**A:** Yes. Recipients of **GRO1000** funding are required by law to report back to The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation on how the grant funds were used. A template report will be given to each winning organization. Reports should be submitted back to the Foundation by April 1, 2019.

**Q: When will applicants be notified of the grant decisions?**

**A:** All applicants will be notified by April 2018.

**Q: Our project was not awarded funding. Why wasn't my application chosen?**

**A:** Each year there is an extremely positive response to the **GRO1000** Grassroots Grants Program. This makes the selection process very competitive. We cannot comment on individual entries, but we do encourage you to apply to the Foundation's future grant cycles.

**Q: After you support the 1000<sup>th</sup> GRO1000 garden, then what?**

**A:** The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation is committed to bringing the benefits of community gardens and greenspaces to the communities and individuals who need them the most, both now and in the future. We will announce the next iteration of the Foundation's community garden grant programming later in 2018.