

Good Governance Fund: Frequently Asked Questions

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1. What is the Good Governance Fund?

The Good Governance Fund is a resource of up to 15 small grants per year for current and former grantee organizations. The Fund is designed to support efforts to strengthen nonprofit board governance practices and leadership.

2. What does the phrase good governance mean?

The phrase good governance commonly describes the basic documents, policies, and behaviors that support and guide board oversight of organizations. Piper Trust has developed the [Good Governance Profile](#), this document outlines commonly accepted best practices that help nonprofits and their boards implement effective board practices and working relationships.

3. What is the grant award amount?

The Good Governance grant amount is \$15,000.

4. Will applying for Good Governance funds affect my organization's application for other Piper Trust grants?

No. The Good Governance Fund is open to all current and former grantees and is independent of other Piper Trust funding.

5. Who can apply for a Good Governance Grant?

The Good Governance Fund is designed to deepen the Trust's investment in its grantees; therefore, Good Governance support is only available to organizations that are current or former Piper Trust grantees.

6. When will funding decisions be made?

Grantees can expect a funding decision within 60 days from the date of the final application.

7. Do I submit my application online?

No. Grantees must begin the process by contacting Program Associate Erin Goodman (egoodman@pipertrust.org / 480-556-7135) for a preliminary conversation about your organization's needs and ideas; she will also talk through the full application process.

8. Can a Good Governance grant pay for staff salaries and overhead?

No. Although we recognize that Good Governance efforts require staff time and other organizational support, Good Governance grants should allow organizations to engage in a level of effort above and beyond the core operating budget.

9. What makes a successful proposal?

Successful proposals include:

- » a thoughtful plan for Good Governance work
- » a strong argument for improving the organization's strength and effectiveness through Good Governance work
- » an explanation of how the proposed project will build on the organization's previous Good Governance work (if applicable).

10. Is there a deadline?

No. Piper Trust will select high quality proposals until the fund is exhausted.

11. What is the role of grantees' board members in the application process?

Although the organization's executive director will submit the proposal, the Trust recommends that the board develop the request jointly with staff. A letter of support from the board chair is a required part of the final proposal packet submitted by the organization.

12. Do we have to use a consultant?

Yes. The outside expertise of a skilled consultant provides the greatest impact.

13. Do we have to use a consultant approved by Piper Trust?

No. A consultant should match the needs and style of the organization's board. The selected consultant will provide a scope of work that will be included with the organization's application packet.

For questions regarding consultants, please contact Program Associate Erin Goodman (egoodman@pipertrust.org / 480-556-7135).

14. Whom should I contact to get started?

Please contact Program Associate Erin Goodman (egoodman@pipertrust.org / 480-556-7135) for an initial conversation and guidance.