



2016 BLASKER ENVIRONMENT GRANT GUIDELINES

The following guidelines will help you prepare your grant proposal and assemble the required documentation to apply for a 2016 Blasker Environment grant.

Important information for all applicants:

- All proposals are to be submitted by 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Friday, May 6th 2016.
- To be eligible for a grant from The San Diego Foundation, organizations must be located and provide services in San Diego County. Organizations must have 501c3 status. A 501c3 organization may serve as a fiscal sponsor for a charitable organization that does not have tax exempt status if a cooperative relationship between the two can be clearly demonstrated. The fiscal sponsor must be willing to administer the grant and provide regular financial reporting to The Foundation if it is awarded a grant.
- To apply online click here: <https://app.smarterselect.com/programs/30932-The-San-Diego-Foundation-Community-Impact>
- To review a list of application questions and instructions before applying online, click here: <https://www.sdfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/blasker-environment-app-questions.pdf>
- Please keep in mind that finalists will be asked to attend a short (up to 1hr) interview on May 31st or June 1st (likely dates) with reviewers of this grants program.

If you have any questions regarding (a) the online application process, please contact Kerri Favela at kerri@sdfoundation.org or (b) the grants program generally, please contact Nicola Hedge at nicola@sdfoundation.org. Both can be reached at (619) 235-2300.

About the Blasker-Rose-Miah Fund

The Blasker-Rose-Miah Fund (“Blasker”) was established as an endowment at The San Diego Foundation in 1992, as a legacy from the generosity of Samuel M. Blasker, who wished to benefit humankind through innovative scientific advancements.

The stated purpose of the fund is “*for the continuing support of research, development and application in scientific, engineering, and medical fields including but not limited to medicine and medical research; aeronautical, industrial and mechanical engineering; biology; and fields of scientific study as yet unknown.*” The stated objective of the fund is “*to nurture and develop unique and innovative discoveries and experiences which may benefit to all mankind, and to support and encourage individuals with high potential in the scientific, medical, and engineering fields to reach their full potential in their chosen areas of study.*”

To help fulfill Mr. Blasker’s vision for the fund, the Blasker Environment Grants Program supports unique and innovative research development and applications that advance local solutions to one of our region’s most pressing challenges - climate change. Emphasis is placed on supporting students and early-career scientists. Grants will support projects that have the potential to improve the quality of life in the San Diego region and to support and encourage San Diegans to reach their full potential.

Awards from the Blasker Environment Grant Program will help to advance The Foundation’s Climate Initiative by supporting research that enhances our understanding of how to address climate change in the San Diego region. The **Climate Initiative** was launched in 2006, to help catalyze greater regional action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare our region for the most harmful local effects of climate change.

Blasker Environment grant applicants are encouraged to apply for grants of \$10,000 to \$50,000. Likely 2-3 proposal will be funded, with approximately \$100,000 in available funding. For information regarding last year's grant recipients please visit our [website](#).

To be **eligible**, proposed projects should:

- Advance innovative and creative scientific projects or research.
- Foster the development of individuals with high potential in the scientific, medical, and engineering fields to reach their potential in their chosen areas of study, work, and analysis.
- Be conducted in and have practical application for the San Diego region.
- Focus on (1) the potential impacts of climate change in the San Diego region (i.e., in areas such as public health, water, or coastal and marine environments), or (2) ways to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions and minimize climate change impacts in the San Diego region.

Projects may include but are not limited to: internships, fellowships, and promotion of mentorship (no scholarships).

Preference in this year's grants will be given to projects that:

- Demonstrate practical application for management and/or policy related to climate impacts to, or interaction between, our region's:
 - Water
 - Public health
 - Coastal and marine environments
- Enhance collaboration between university researchers, local nonprofits, public agencies and/or community residents engaged in environmental work.
- Leverage additional funding, partnerships, and research.

About the Review Process

All proposals submitted by the deadline will be reviewed by a committee comprised of Foundation staff and volunteers with scientific, environmental and climate change expertise. The review committee will evaluate proposals based on relevance of the proposed project to grant guidelines and regional efforts to address climate change, organizational capacity and leadership, track record of the principal investigator/organization, budget, and the potential to leverage additional resources. As with all our grants committees, the review committee adheres to a strict conflict of interest policy and other internal controls to ensure that grant funding is distributed in a methodical and objective manner, based on the merits of each proposal. After an initial review of the submitted proposals, a few applicants will be invited to a one-hour interview with the review committee May 31st or June 1, 2016 (likely dates). Grant awards will be announced by early July.