



**Georgia Department of Community Affairs**

# **2006 State Challenge Grants Request for Proposals**

## **ROUND ONE**



Georgia Department of  
Community Affairs

## 2006 Request for Proposals

### Overview

Hands On Georgia is a statewide network that supports innovative volunteer approaches to meeting Georgia's critical needs through service and civic engagement. We need strong civic participation from the citizens of Georgia in order to:

- make our schools work more effectively
- keep our environment healthy and beautiful
- nurture children
- unite Georgia's citizens across divisions of region, race, and economics

Hands On Georgia affiliates currently include Hands On Adairsville, Hands On Atlanta, Hands On Columbus, Hands On Dooly County, Hands On Forsyth County, Hands on Hall County, Hands On Harlem, Hands On Liberty County, Hands On Macon, Hands On Milledgeville, Hands On Northwest Georgia, Hands On Ogeechee (Statesboro Area), Hands On Rome/Floyd County, Hands On Savannah, Hands On Thomas County and Hands On Wayne County. These affiliates work with local agencies, governments and schools to improve the lives of individuals in their communities. Each affiliate organizes on-going service projects that address the specific needs of their area. These projects range from day long serve-a-thons to weekly nursing home visits to month-long home repair projects. Indeed, Hands On Georgia affiliate projects are as diverse as the citizens of Georgia.

### Grant Opportunity

Hands On Georgia and The Georgia Department of Community Affairs received \$200,000 from the 2006 Georgia General Assembly to offer challenge grants to existing and emerging affiliates. Emerging affiliates are organizations that are not yet formally affiliated with Hands On Georgia, but would like to be. The goal of these grants is to build capacity within current and proposed Hands On Georgia organizations to implement Hands On volunteer programming. Hands On programming engages volunteers in direct service to their communities.

Grants will be allocated in two rounds. The first round, totaling \$100,000 will be awarded in October 2006. The second round, also \$100,000, will be dispersed in February 2007.

Hands On Georgia expects to make awards of \$1,000 - \$10,000 each, with the final allocation dependent on the quality and quantity of proposals received. Grants will require a 100% local match. Each \$1 of grant money must be matched by \$1 of local funds.

Successful proposals will include a clear vision of the growth and development that is anticipated, as well as precise methods for demonstrating the level of growth and development that has been achieved.

## **Eligibility & Grant Guidelines**

The 2006–2007 Hands On Georgia and The Department of Community Affairs Challenge Grant opportunity is open to all communities in Georgia that are not served by a current Hands On Georgia affiliate. Grants must be paid from The Georgia Department of Community Affairs to a partnering local (county or city) government agency. Community agencies must find a local government fiscal sponsor to apply for grant funds. Funding requests may not exceed \$10,000.

Past Challenge Grants recipients may apply for additional funding with noted limitations:

- Within one Challenge Grant fiscal year, applicants may request an amount up to \$10,000
- Applicants may only receive a maximum of \$20,000 from two consecutive application periods of Challenge Grants. For example, if an organization received \$10,000 from a previous round, in the next successive round, that organization will only be eligible to receive a maximum grant allotment of \$10,000)

Grant funds must be used to build capacity for implementing volunteer service with an emphasis on creating a sustainable community program. Activities may include:

- Building organizational capacity (including expanding or developing staff resources) to implement Hands On programming
- Creating ongoing service projects with a variety of agency partners, addressing a diverse array of issue areas
- Engaging volunteers as leaders in all aspects of volunteer service programming: project leaders, committee members, etc.
- Organizing large-scale “day of service” events
- Engaging corporate partners, including employee volunteer programming, customized project development and management
- Developing volunteer leaders, including issue-education, project reflection, infusion of civic engagement strategies, and skill-building opportunities for volunteers

Match Requirements: Grantees agree to demonstrate the ability to raise private or public funds at a 1:1 ratio to match funds dispersed under this grant. Matching funds must be

cash (not in kind). Matching funds cannot come from existing resources and cannot be matched by other grants administered by Hands On Georgia or The Georgia Department of Community Affairs. A letter detailing the source of community matching dollars should be included in the grant request.

Grant Disbursement Under the Award: Grant funds will be disbursed from The Georgia Department of Community Affairs to the grantee (to or through a local government entity) in two installments. 25% of the grant amount will be disbursed upon receipt of the signed grant agreement. The remaining disbursement will be made upon satisfactory demonstration of the match requirement within a six month period from the date of the initial award.

## **Requirements**

Grantees will be required to:

- Submit a strategic plan for the local community service organization which should include a detailed budget along with a finance plan.
- Organize a community based volunteer service program
- Attend the 2007 Hands On Georgia Conference on Service and Volunteerism – Dates To Be Determined
- Create and implement a Hands On Georgia Week service project
- Create and implement a Martin Luther King Day service project
- Create and implement a minimum of two additional community service projects

## **Grant Schedule & Deadlines**

Grants will be disbursed in one round, with application deadlines and matching fund confirmation following the schedule below:

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| • RFP distributed   | September 5, 2006  |
| • Technical Assistance Call   | September 18, 2006 |
| • Application due   | October 6, 2006    |
| • Grant review and selection  | October 9-13, 2006 |
| • Announcement of Grant Recipients  | October 16, 2006   |
| • Disbursement of 25% of funding to grantees<br>Upon Receipt of Signed Contract                       |                    |
| • Matching funds confirmation to Hands On Georgia and<br>disbursement of remaining funds on or before | March 30, 2007     |

For more information about becoming a Hands On organization in Georgia, please contact:

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