

## FRIENDS OF NIGER 2026 GRANT APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Friends of Niger (FON) awards small grants to support projects that directly benefit the people of Niger. The maximum grant award is 2,750,000 cfa (\$5,000). All funding for grants comes from individuals who donate to the organization.

Applications for funding will only be accepted between **April 27 and May 10, 2026**. All eligible applications will compete for available funding, based on how well they meet FON criteria.

NOTE: Proposals received before or after the deadlines will not be considered.

### FON gives priority to projects that meet the following criteria:

- ✓ Address a locally identified need
- ✓ Are feasible and likely to be successful
- ✓ Benefit a group or community (i.e. not just individuals)
- ✓ Involve the community in project development and include local contributions
- ✓ Have a plan to sustain the benefits into the future
- ✓ Build local capacity and leadership

*(See detailed descriptions at the end of this document)*

### FON Will Not Fund:

- Political activism, including political campaigns or attempts to influence legislation
- Litigation
- Debt relief for any organization
- Projects that only benefit one person or family, such as visas, immigration procedures, or scholarships
- Projects with a religious, ethnic or racial purpose, or any other discriminatory purpose considered illegal under Nigerien law
- Projects proposed by organizations previously funded by FON that have not fulfilled their obligations to FON
- Organizations on an anti-terrorism watch list or associated with any form of political violence, money laundering, trafficking in drugs, arms or persons, or any criminal or illicit activity as defined by Nigerien, regional and/or international law.
- Private business operations or private business start-ups.

### Eligible organizations:

Applications are welcomed from not-for-profit organizations, community associations, schools, clinics and other formal organizations which comply with government requirements. Applications will not be accepted from individuals or organizations that represent political parties, private businesses, or any entity that has outstanding obligations to FON such as incomplete project reporting. Applications from organizations on a terrorist watch list or associated with any other form

of political violence, money laundering or any criminal or illicit activity determined by Nigerien law, regional law and/or international law are not eligible for funding.

### **Application Submission**

Applications may be submitted in French or English. Applications must include concise, complete answers, must respect the word limits noted in the application form and must respond to the information requested in each question. Proposals must be clear about how the proposed project will improve the lives of Nigeriens. Extensive background information is not needed.

Incomplete and ineligible applications will not be considered. Applications requesting more than 2,750,000 cfa (\$5,000) in funding from Friends of Niger will not be considered. Friends of Niger is very unlikely to fund more than one proposal per organization per cycle and reserves the right to review only one proposal if more than one is submitted.

Applications will only be accepted during the Application period. Any applications received prior to or after that period will not be considered. Applications must be submitted using the current application form. Applications on older Application Forms will be returned to sender.

**Submit applications as a Word Document via email. (please do not send as PDF or other document format)**

To: [subventions@friendsofniger.org](mailto:subventions@friendsofniger.org)

Subject: "Project name"/"Applicant/Organization name"

All applicants will receive a confirmation email within 7 days of submitting an application. If you do not receive a confirmation email, please contact us.

Results of the competition will be announced to all applicants on or before August 16, 2026. Friends of Niger will work with successful applicants to transfer funds after this announcement. No approved project activities should be initiated before funds are received. The FON will not cover any costs associated with preparing your application.

### **TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION**

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The Grant Review Team is composed of volunteers who have lived and worked in Niger and Nigerien diaspora. They will be looking for proposals that succinctly describe the planned activity and demonstrate the project is ready to be implemented.

To be successful, applications should clearly address all the review criteria listed above and described in detail at the end of this document.

To address the review criteria, the applications should focus on providing the most relevant information to explain how project goals will be achieved. The project description should describe all major steps and the budget should reflect all the resources needed to achieve those steps. Each applicant should focus efforts on one solid application rather than submitting multiple applications.

## GENERAL TIPS:

- Study the detailed description of review criteria at the end of this document
- Define all acronyms
- Be concise, respect maximum word limits and avoid unnecessary background information
- Focus on the project you are proposing and its direct impacts
- Describe the major activities
  - Provide enough information for us to determine if your project is feasible and likely to be successful. Do not provide a simple list without any description.
  - Project activities should be clearly linked to the budget and desired project results.
- Identify measurable results from the activity you are planning.
  - Results should be closely related to the project objectives and proposed activities.
  - Your stated goals should be feasible, measurable and should describe a positive change that results from your proposed actions.
  - Describe WHAT you are going to measure and HOW you will measure the results.
- Involve participants in project development.
  - Collaborate with the main participants of the project before you apply for funding. If the target group has not been engaged and involved in planning the activity, the proposal will not be competitive.
    - If your first action is to go out to tell the community about the project, it is obvious that they have not been involved with the planning.
- Plan for sustaining the benefits into the future.
  - Explain how you will be able to continue the activity or maintain the asset in the future without further assistance from us.
  - If you propose to use imported technologies or equipment (computers, solar kits, pumps, etc.), Explain how you intend to ensure proper maintenance.
  - FON funding is not available to satisfy urgent needs like disaster relief or ongoing needs like child feeding programs.

## BUDGETS

- Budgets must show the costs of implementing all project activities.
- FON expenses should directly benefit the project and participants.
- Proposals with more local contribution will be more competitive.
- FON will not fund routine administrative costs like rent, internet access or other costs not directly associated with the proposed project
- FON will not fund expensive coffee breaks, unnecessary ceremonies and refreshments or unnecessary travel and per diem costs
- Provide a brief description of items is required in the budget. See good and bad budget examples below

	Item Description:	Unit cost	# units	Total Item Cost	Requested from FON	Other fund source, or donation
Good example	2 to 3-year-old Breeding Goats	25,000 per female goat	75	1,875,000	1,800,000	75,000 participant contribution
Bad example	Small ruminants			75,000	75,000	
Good example	Cement - 50kg bag	80,000 F	20 bags	1,600,000	1,500,000	100,000
Good example	Cement transport - 25 km	1,000 F per km	25 km	25,000	25,000	0
Bad example	cement			1,625,000		1,600,000
Good example	Lunch break for training sessions	1,500 f	60; (20 participants over 3 days)	90,000	75,000	15,000
Bad example	Refreshments.			100,000	1,000,000	0

## QUESTIONS & CONCERNS FOR COMMON TYPES OF PROJECTS

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### TRAINING ACTIVITIES:

- Applications must include the topic, duration and goal of training.
  - For example:
    - “sewing lessons to teach fabrication of reusable menstrual pads; 6 hours of training per day for 3 full consecutive days”; or
    - “1-hour training in garden maintenance afterschool twice a week for 10 weeks”
- Good training goals will describe new skills and abilities that trainees will be capable of completing on their own after the training.
  - For example:
    - “number of participants able to sew menstrual pads independently”
    - “number of students able to water plants and remove weeds independently”
- The amount and quality of training planned must be adequate for developing the desired skills.

### WELL/WATER PROJECTS

- Describe actual or anticipated depth of well to be dug or repaired
- Borehole proposals must provide a preliminary estimate from a well drilling company and site-specific hydrologic information describing the likely success of the planned well
- Describe how ongoing costs, maintenance and management of well or pumping equipment will be handled
- Provide a contingency plan for how needs will be met if the borehole does not find water

### LIVESTOCK PROJECTS

- Projects proposing to purchase livestock should describe herd development goals and any plans for distribution of offspring.
- Participants should actively participate in providing feed for livestock during and after the project
- Explain and justify the ratio of male-to-female animals that are being proposed.

### SOLAR PROJECTS

- Consult experienced, qualified professional assistance in project design. Verify the experience of consultants by visiting projects they have completed. Talk to former clients to learn if systems are still working.
- Plan to purchase quality equipment, especially batteries. Research if the batteries you select are working well for people in your area?
- Provide explanation on how on-going maintenance costs (replacement parts, cleaning if necessary, etc) will be managed and funded once FON funding is not available.

### LATRINES

- Facilities for boys and girls should be separated.
- A maintenance plan and a plan for providing supplies should be included in the proposal.
- Handwashing facilities should be included.

### SCHOOL DESKS

- Manufacturer should provide some form of guarantee of materials and workmanship
- Desks will not be funded for classrooms that are of straw construction or otherwise not capable of protecting desks from damage by weather.

### INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES

- Does the project have a mechanism to share the benefits of the activities beyond the initial participants, such as a revolving loan or 'pay it forward' idea?
- Is training provided in "associative life" or business management?
- Is the skill development and other assistance adequate to promote independent activity by participants
- Success should be measured in the amount of income generated

## PROPOSAL REVIEW CRITERIA

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**Locally Identified Need and Relevance:** The project addresses a locally identified need in Niger which is clearly articulated. The project is clearly developed in concert with and supported by local and/or traditional authorities.

**Feasibility:** The project is likely to be completed successfully with the people and resources requested and within the proposed timeframe. There is adequate experience and technical expertise within the applicant team for successful project implementation. The project's Responsible Party has demonstrated competence in leading projects. The proposal identifies potential problems or barriers to successful completion and how they will be addressed if needed.

**Impact & leverage:** A substantial number of people will benefit (directly and/or indirectly) relative to the amount of FON funds spent and there will be a locally significant or a more generalized, short- or long-term impact. The proposal identifies how other potential donors and/or partners will contribute. Consideration is also given to project ideas that could be replicated in other locations.

**Monitoring & Evaluation:** The proposal includes specific measurable criteria of success and indicates who, when and how these criteria will be measured. The monitoring should be clearly linked to the project goals.

**Demonstrated Community Support:** The project demonstrates local support including but not limited to local participation in project development, donated labor/materials, cost sharing, expertise, resources, and oversight.

**Sustainability &/or Humanitarian need:** Proposed activities can be implemented, managed, and/or maintained by community members without additional external technology, supplies, support, or resources-- OR there is an accompanying, viable plan for any such needed assistance. In other words, the proposed activity does not make the situation more vulnerable or precarious and does not worsen or create dependency.

\* We understand that sometimes the goal of sustainability is not practical, e.g., a classroom construction project. Therefore, projects that address a short-term humanitarian need without undermining the ultimate goal of self-sufficiency may also be competitive.

**Capacity Building:** The project will strengthen the capacity of the implementing organization, community and/or beneficiaries. The project offers local opportunities to enhance skills in project management, implementation and/or evaluation.

**Application Quality:** The application is well laid out and provides the information required in a succinct and understandable way.