

Arizona Office of State Treasurer

SB 1720 SECTION 118.3 REQUEST FOR INFORMATION RE: “A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION THAT OPERATES AN ASTRONOMY CENTER AND OBSERVATORY THAT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC IN NORTHERN ARIZONA”

1. INTRODUCTION

To comply with SB 1720 Section 118.3, the Arizona State Treasurer’s Office (ASTO) is issuing a request for information (“RFI”) to assist it develop a grant program to distribute the appropriated monies pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-2701 *et seq.*¹

Under SB 1720 Section 118.3, the Arizona Legislature “appropriated from the state general fund in fiscal year 2023–2024 to the state treasurer ... \$5,600,000 to distribute to a nonprofit organization that operates an astronomy center and observatory that is open to the public in northern Arizona.”

Any request must serve a purpose that may include education, conservation, economic development, etc. ASTO issues this RFI to obtain information regarding how to best structure the grant program (i.e., determine which nonprofit entities qualify and what are the nonprofits’ intended purpose and use for the monies).

At the conclusion of the grant process, ASTO intends to enter into a grant agreement with the qualifying nonprofit(s) to ensure the funds comply with an acceptable public use.

Note that pursuant to A.A.C. R2-7-G301, responses to a RFI “are not offers and cannot be accepted to form a binding contract.” Note also that “[i]nformation contained in a response to a request for information shall be considered confidential until the procurement process is concluded or two years, whichever occurs first unless authorized by the state procurement administrator.”²

2. INFORMATION TO PROVIDE

2.1 SB 1720 Section 118.3 appropriates “from the state general fund in fiscal year 2023–2024 to the state treasurer ... \$5,600,000 to distribute to a nonprofit organization that operates an astronomy center and observatory that is open to the public in northern Arizona.” Therefore, please include in your response answers to the following:

1. Whether the organization is a nonprofit organization qualified under section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code for Federal Income Tax Purposes.
2. Whether the organization operates an astronomy center and observatory that is open to the public in northern Arizona.

¹ ASTO issues this Request for Information pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-2555, A.A.C. R2-7-G301, and Section 7.2.1 of the State Grant Manual.

² A.A.C. R2-7-301(2).

3. What is the organization's intended public purpose for the SB 1720 Section 118.3 funds that are set to be distributed?
4. A detailed explanation of how the organization intends to use the funds and how the value received to the public from the organization's proposed use far exceeds what is being paid by the public through the appropriation.

2.2 As part of the RFI Response, please also provide the following information:

1. Name of 501(c) Organization
2. Authorized Contact
3. Organization Address
4. Contact Telephone Number
5. Contact Facsimile
6. Contact Email Address

3. INQUIRIES

All questions that arise relating to this RFI shall be directed in writing to:

Jackie Harding, Deputy Treasurer of Operations
Arizona State Treasurer's Office
1700 W. Washington St., Suite #102
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Electronic inquiries may also be sent to jackieh@aztreasury.gov.

For inquiries to be addressed, they must be received by Friday, October 13, 2023, at 3:00 P.M., local Arizona Time.

4. SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION

Written or electronic submittals must be in the actual possession of ASTO on or prior to Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at 3:00 P.M., local Arizona Time.

Submittals must be submitted in a sealed envelope and the following information should be noted on the outside of the envelope:

Respondent's Name
Respondent's Address
RFI SB 1720 Sec. 118.3
Astronomy Center and Observatory

Electronic Submittals may also be sent to: jackieh@aztreasury.gov.

5. RESPONDENT INFORMATION AND AUTHORIZATION

Respondent certifies they have read and fully understands this RFI.

Submitted by:

Signature: _____

Typed Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____