A R | D C

AMATEUR RADIO DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS

Request for Proposals: Support for Amateur Radio Clubs
April 2021

Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC) is a California-based foundation with roots in amateur radio and the technology of internet communication. ARDC makes grants to projects and organizations that follow the practice and tradition of technical experimentation in both amateur radio and digital communication. Such experimentation has led to broad advances for the benefit of the general public – such as the mobile phone and wireless internet technology. ARDC envisions a world where enabling communications technology is ubiquitously available through open source hardware and software, and where anyone has the ability to study, modify, and share it.

In an effort to bring this vision to life and to further our mission, ARDC is seeking proposals for grants to support amateur radio clubs.

Applications for amateur radio clubs will be reviewed in two cycles in 2021:

	Summer	**Fall**
Submissions due	May 1, 2021	August 1, 2021
Distribution target	July 1, 2021	October 1, 2021

Please note that the timeframes listed above apply primarily to amateur radio clubs that are 501(c)(3)s or part of a school or government entity based in the US. Grants to other kinds of organizations may require additional administration and thus may take a longer to process.

ARDC Granting Goals: Support & Growth of Amateur Radio

"Since I was young, my life and interests have been influenced by technical work in amateur radio, amateur satellites, and communications theory and engineering. The support for and leadership of technical work in amateur radio and beyond is a reason I want to help ARDC in any capacity so others can benefit as I did."

- Bob McGwier – N4HY, ARDC Board Member

One of ARDC's core goals is to support and grow amateur radio, which has been deeply affected by the commercial communications revolution: young people no longer need an amateur radio license to make mobile audio and video calls with their friends. Meanwhile, learning about amateur radio is still a gateway into learning about electronics, physics, and space-based communications.

Supporting amateur radio clubs is not the only way that ARDC wishes to support amateur radio (though it is the focus of this RFP). To learn more, visit: https://www.ampr.org/grantmaking-categories-requirements-goals/

Grants to Amateur Radio Clubs: 2021

This RFP specifically encourages grant proposals from Amateur Radio clubs. Here are examples of the kinds of projects we're looking for:

- Revival of college, high school, or other Amateur Radio clubs at educational institutions. Such proposals may include purchase and installation of new equipment, such as an antenna.

- Upgrades of repeater systems (including antennas) and new repeater systems in areas where commercial grade equipment is required or commercial rates must be paid.

- Installation of dedicated microwave links (such as HamWAN or AREDN) to replace expensive or problematic commercial Internet access (such as DSL or cellular) for repeater control and linking.

- Creation of new emergency communications capabilities such as Winlink at Emergency Operations Centers.

- Pool of loaner equipment, allowing licensed Amateur Radio operators to get experience with actual operations.

- Field Day or other highly public activities, including expenses such as brochures, swag, and other materials

- Facility expenses for Amateur Radio classes and conferences.

In your proposal, please include what other support is available or pledged to your club. This could be community, non-profit, or business contributions including volunteer labor and equipment.

Example of an ARDC Grant to an Amateur Radio Club

- **Chippewa Valley Amateur Radio Club – Emergency Trailer – $25,165**
  Funded the purchase and outfitting of an Amateur Radio Emergency Communications trailer along with necessary supporting equipment – including electrical generator, antennas, and radio repeaters for use in educating the next generation of amateur radio radio operators and various forms of supporting activities, such as SKYWARN severe weather spotting.

Q&A

Who is eligible to apply for an amateur radio club grant from ARDC?
Amateur radio clubs in the United States may apply for these grants in 2021. Note that ARDC is not yet able to make grants to individuals, so your club must be organized as some kind of legal entity or part of/sponsored by an organization such as a school, 501(c)(3), or government entity.

My amateur radio club is made up of an unincorporated collection of volunteers. Can we apply for a grant?
As ARDC is not yet able to make grants to individuals, we cannot make grants to unincorporated groups of volunteers. As a path forward, however, such groups may apply through a fiscal sponsor. To learn more about how fiscal sponsorship works, please visit: https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/tools-resources/fiscal-sponsorship-nonprofits

What about amateur radio clubs outside of the United States?
ARDC is working on creating the administrative frameworks to make it possible to make grants to international organizations. To further this goal, ARDC is also seeking international NGO partners who may help us distribute grants to amateur radio clubs internationally. If you have any questions or leads, please send them to giving@ampr.org.

How do I apply?
To submit an application:
1. Review ARDC's 2021 Grantmaking Goals and Requirements and the materials on ampr.org/giving.
2. Prepare your brief but thorough proposal and budget. Feel free to ask questions to giving@ampr.org!
3. Answer the relevant questions at mailman.ampr.org/hotcrp and upload your proposal.

What happens after I apply?
Following a check for eligibility, all grant applications will be reviewed by ARDC's Grants Advisory Committee (GAC). Members of the GAC or ARDC staff may reach out to you with questions. In some cases, you may be asked to submit supplementary information or a revised proposal. The GAC will then vote to accept or reject your proposal, followed by an approval vote by the ARDC board. Once accepted, a member of our staff will collect relevant information from you to process your grant request.

Are there any reporting requirements?
Yes. Grantees are expected to provide a report every 6 months documenting their progress, along with a final report detailing your results and how funds have been spent.

Are there any other important requirements I should know about?
Yes. Any hardware, software, or research resulting from your grant needs to be freely distributed as widely as possible, ideally using an Open Source Initiative (OSI) approved license. Also, be sure to review our 2021 Grantmaking, Requirements, and Goals before submitting an application.

Grant period?
Typically our grant periods are no longer than 1-2 years. If you need more time, consider breaking your proposal into smaller chunks to ensure that you will be able to complete the project on time. The idea is to give you as much time as you need, but no longer.

What if something happens and I am not able to spend the money on time?
In the event that this happens, you may request a grant extension by submitting a request to giving@ampr.org. **It is important that you send this request at least 30 days before your grant period end date.** In the event that an extension is unavailable (if, say, the project you intended to spend the money on has ended, or if one or more extensions have already been granted) you may need to return unused funds to ARDC.

If I get a grant from ARDC, will you renew it next year?
No annual renewal should be assumed. That's because we want how to see how your project goes before making any kind of ongoing commitment. Once the first project is completed (including final report submitted) they you may apply for another grant in the next grant cycle.

Maximum limit of the grant?
No. If the project is truly awesome, we want to give you exactly what you need (but not a penny more). Note that in 2020, we gave away nearly $2.7 million, and we aim to at least double that number in 2021.

Is there a limit on the number of grants that you will give?
No. ARDC will make a determination on the number of grants and total disbursement based on the proposals we receive.

References

More information can be found at AMPR.org, including but not limited to:

- Overview of ARDC Grantmaking: https://www.ampr.org/giving/
- ARDC Grantmaking Requirements and Goals: https://www.ampr.org/grantmaking-categories-requirements-goals/
- List of Grants to-date: https://www.ampr.org/grants/
- Grant Application Portal: https://mailman.ampr.org/hotcrp/

Contact

Please direct inquiries to giving@ampr.org