



IMPORTANT

The Azimuth World Foundation does not assess the criteria for qualification with a "Friends of." The Azimuth World Foundation assesses a candidate's project information, such as goals, activities, budget, and timeline, and selects projects to recommend to the Azimuth World Foundation Donor-advised Fund. For the Fund to be able to award grants to non-US-based organizations following all legal requirements, it must submit the review process to an independent and impartial entity, [NGO source](#). It is this entity that will determine the candidate's eligibility to receive funds and the "Friends of" eligibility to transfer them to the candidate.

WHAT IS A US 501(C)(3) "FRIENDS OF"?

A US "Friends of" is an organization with 501 (c) (3) status, meaning it is tax-exempt. It can be either a public charity or a private foundation, but always not for profit. Often, these organizations are named "Friends of" and serve the purpose of expediting fundraising for non-US-based organizations. They should not, however, be mere conduits of money. They can simply be nonprofit organizations that meet the following criteria:

1. Having 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt status;
2. Having an exempt purpose (religious, educational, scientific, literary, testing for public safety, fostering national or international amateur sports competition, and preventing cruelty to children or animals);
3. None of its earnings may inure to any private shareholder or individual;
4. Not having a substantial part of its activities attempting to influence legislation (commonly known as lobbying).

Unlike a direct Grant to a non-US-based organization, a grant to a 501 (c)(3) "Friends of" does not require an Equivalency Determination or an Expenditure Responsibility, both more costly, lengthy, and bureaucratic.