



Southwest Initiative Foundation GRANT GUIDELINES

1. All proposals must demonstrate a benefit within the following 18 counties in southwest Minnesota: Big Stone, Chippewa, Cottonwood, Jackson, Kandiyohi, Lac qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, McLeod, Meeker, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Renville, Rock, Swift, and Yellow Medicine. The Foundation prefers that the applicant is located within the 18 county area and that ideas and visions are generated locally.
2. Targeted and diverse populations are involved early in the development of the proposed project and throughout the implementation. (i.e. youth, older adults, and various interest groups)
3. Proposals incorporate an innovative approach and avoid duplication of efforts.
4. Proposals have clearly stated goals and measurable outcomes.
5. Proposals must exhibit evidence of appropriate partnerships. It is best to include letters from partners that clearly state their level of support and commitment to the project.
6. Grants generally range from \$1,000 to \$20,000. The Foundation will consider funding for up to 50 percent of a project. The remaining 50 percent must be provided through other sources including in-kind and a cash contribution.
7. Grant requests are considered for up to one year of funding. Additional project funding may be considered annually and at a declining funding level for up to three years.
8. Proposals must be submitted by a 501(c)(3) organization, a unit of government, or by a public agency. Organizations that are not tax exempt must apply through a suitable fiscal agent willing to accept responsibility for the project.
9. Churches and religious organizations may apply for support for activities that benefit the larger community but not for activities that have a sectarian religious purpose.
10. Proposals must show evidence of one or more ways to continue the project beyond Foundation funding.

The Foundation generally does not make grants for:

- Capital expenditures
- Religious purposes/activities
- Lobbying or political activities
- For-profit businesses
- Debt retirement
- Ongoing, open ended grants
- Administrative budgets for existing organizations
- Arts
- Programs or services mandated by law or to replace government funding
- National fundraising campaigns, ticket sales, fundraising dinners, endowment drives, or other similar activities

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