

United Way of Southwest Minnesota Community Impact Grant Guidelines

Statement of Purpose:

The United Way of Southwest Minnesota invests donations back into our communities primarily through the Community Impact Grants. In Southwest Minnesota, we focus on improving health, education, financial stability, reducing hunger, and ensuring the safety & well-being of every person in every community. Programs that receive funding are carefully selected for their significant impact on the lives of local people in Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Yellow Medicine, and portions of Cottonwood, Lac qui Parle, Nobles, and Redwood counties in Minnesota.

To be eligible to apply for a Community Impact Grant from UWSWMN, the organization that offers the program must meet the following requirements:

- The organization must operate as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, a public school, a government unit, or have a fiscal sponsor who meets this requirement.
- The organization must operate and provide a service or program within Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Yellow Medicine, or the portions of Cottonwood, Lac qui Parle, Nobles, and Redwood counties of Minnesota served by UWSWMN.
 - Please note that the grant funding is only available for programs that serve individuals within the UWSWMN service area.
- Operate underwritten Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws or other written documents or statutes that define the organization's purposes, membership, management, and operation.
- Operate on a non-discriminatory basis in employment, recruitment of volunteers, and delivery of services.
 - Diversity enriches our community and its neighborhoods and organizations.
 - Discrimination based on race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, age, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, veteran status, gender, gender identity or expression, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions, or any other basis protected by federal or state laws is prohibited.
 - UWSWMN reserves the right to request a copy of your non-discrimination policy.
- Demonstrate effective financial responsibility and accountability as follows:
 - For applicants with total budgets of **\$500,000 or more**, submit a copy of an independently conducted audit.
 - For applicants with total budgets of **less than \$500,000**, submit an Independent Review. Recommended documentation should include a statement of activities (profit and loss statement) and a statement of financial position (balance sheet as of the end of the organization's fiscal year). An Independent Review is conducted by someone with financial expertise, not necessarily a CPA, but not associated with the organization or UWSWMN. The Independent Review should be signed by the financial representative conducting the review and the organization's board chair, executive director, or treasurer. Occasionally, appropriate signers may be board/foundation/committee officers.
 - If this is a hardship for small organizations, please contact the UWSWMN office to discuss special accommodations.
- Demonstrate the use of good governance practices.

Additional information to be aware of:

- Funds can be requested yearly and used solely for the granted purpose.
- Completed grant applications must be submitted by the deadline set forth by UWSWMN to be reviewed for funding. **No extensions will be given.**
- Grant applications that are received promptly and meet funding requirements will be reviewed by a team of community volunteers who will make a recommendation on proposed funding to the UWSWMN board of directors based on the submitted application, in-person interview, and UWSWMN priority areas, as well as funds available. Funding requests may be denied without a hearing or onsite visit.

- All grant award recommendations made by the Community Investment volunteer process shall be reviewed by the UWSWMN board of directors and adjusted or approved as submitted. The grant amount will depend upon individual program requests and the need determined by the UWSWMN board of directors.
- Organizations should receive written notification of the board's decision by July 1.
- No grant will be given for any purpose that would jeopardize the tax-exempt status of UWSWMN or the applicant organization.
- Awarded funds must be used in compliance with all applicable anti-terrorist financing and asset control laws, statutes, and executive orders.
- Awarded funds must be used exclusively for the intended purpose in alignment with UWSWMN priorities.
- If funding is granted, the grant recipient must sign the UWSWMN Community Partnership Agreement and abide by all agreement requirements to receive awarded funds.
- Funded activities shall commence promptly, and all awarded funds must be spent within the UWSWMN fiscal year, July 1 – June 30, unless an extension is requested and granted by the UWSWMN board of directors.
- Awarded funds not expended within the specified timeframe shall be returned to UWSWMN.
- Grant recipients shall conspicuously acknowledge UWSWMN in all promotional materials related to activities and programs funded with UWSWMN grants. UWSWMN requests that digital pictures or copies of news releases be shared with UWSWMN throughout the grant year.
- Grant recipients must submit a final report and program financial statement to UWSWMN on or before the determined deadline. Failure to do so may result in removal from consideration of future grant opportunities.

Funding will generally not be awarded for:

- **Marketing efforts**
- **Event or fundraising promotions**
- **Capital campaigns or expenditures (i.e., land, building, real estate, vehicles, equipment, building upkeep or repair)**
- **Funding for organizations that intend to distribute funds at their own discretion**
- **Debt reduction or program shortfall from earlier years**
- **Endowment funding**
- **Political campaigns or lobbying efforts**
- **Activities that support a specific religious purpose**
- **Professional development or training**
- **Programs that operate in a discriminatory manner**
- **Program work outside the UWSWMN service area**
- **Programs not demonstrating a strong local need**
- **Direct individual support**
- **Volunteer recruitment and recognition**
- **Staff positions at schools**

Additionally, UWSWMN funding will typically not be awarded if UWSWMN is the sole funding source for a program.