

UNITED WAY OF SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA SMALL GRANT GUIDELINES

Description:

Statement of Purpose:

United Way of Southwest Minnesota (*UWSWMN*) unites people and resources to improve lives and strengthen communities in southwest Minnesota. As part of our grant funding portfolio, UWSWMN has set aside funding for use during each fiscal year (*July 1 through June 30*) to provide small grants to eligible nonprofit organizations in our service area. The intent of the Small Grant Program is to provide support for community projects, programs or initiatives in need of a small, one-time grant that aligns with the UWSWMN Community Impact Priorities.

About Small Grants:

The Small Grants Program is an outreach of the Community Impact funding process. The available amount of grant dollars each year is subject to change. One-time grants, up to \$5000 will be awarded to organizations aligned with UWSWMN's priority areas. Deadlines are 5:00 p.m. August 31st and January 31st.

Allowable Uses of Funding:

UWSWMN Small Grant Program can be used for projects such as:

- Program work including planning, training and/or development.
- Organizational capacity building including strategic planning, governance and other types of organizational planning and/or development activities.
- Community and/or human service work that includes volunteer participation.
- Emerging or unmet needs and/or to support innovative solutions to local issues.

Funding Guidelines:

- Small Grants of up to \$5000 are available for qualified projects.
- One grant per organization, per fiscal year (*July 1-June 30*).
- Funding will support programs, projects or initiatives that have clear alignment to the Community Impact Priorities and serve people within the UWSWMN service area.
- **Funding will generally not support capital campaigns or event sponsorship.**

Eligibility Requirements:

- Operate as non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, a public school, a unit of government and/or have a fiscal sponsor that meets one of those requirements.
- Operate under written Articles of Incorporation and By-laws or other written documents or statutes that define the applicant's purposes, membership, management and operation.
- Operate on a non-discriminatory basis in employment, recruitment of volunteers and delivery of services.
- Demonstrate effective program performance and financial responsibility and accountability.
- Operate or provide service within Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Yellow Medicine or portions of Cottonwood, Lac qui Parle, Nobles and/or Redwood counties of Minnesota served by UWSWMN. **Grant funding is only for programs that serve individuals living within the UWSWMN service area.**
- Program must align with the UWSWMN Community Impact Priorities.

Operating Guidelines:

- Funds shall be used solely for the granted purpose.
- Funded activities shall commence in a timely manner and expenditures shall cease within one year after receipt of the grant unless an extension is granted by UWSWMN. Funds not expended shall be returned to UWSWMN.
- All Small Grants shall be approved by the Board of Directors of UWSWMN upon recommendations from the Small Grant Committee following a review/formal hearing. The amount of any grant will depend upon individual program requests and the need as determined by the Board of Directors of UWSWMN. Funding requests may be denied without a hearing or onsite visit.
- No Small Grant will be given for any purpose that would jeopardize the tax-exempt status of UWSWMN or the applicant organization.
- Grant recipients shall conspicuously acknowledge UWSWMN in all promotional materials, activities and programs funded with UWSWMN monies. Logos will be provided.
- Grant recipients shall submit a project performance report and financial statement indicating actual use and the results of Small Grant funds within 30 days of completion of project/program end date. Failure to do so may result in removal from consideration of future grant opportunities.

Contact Information:

For questions about this application, please contact United Way of Southwest Minnesota at unitedway@unitedwayswmn.org

**United Way
of Southwest Minnesota**

