

LETTER OF INTEREST GUIDELINES 2020 Grant Cycle (Q3–Q4)

GRANT CYCLE TIMELINE

Open Call for Letters of Interest	Sept 21, 2020
Grant Information Webinar (optional)	Sept 30, 2020 at 8am OR 11:30am (two sessions available)
Letters of Interest Due	Oct 12, 2020 by 12pm CST
Applicant Workshop Invitations Issued	Oct 23, 2020
Applicant Workshop (virtual)	Nov 5, 2020 from 8-10:30am CST
Notification of Finalist Status	Nov 17, 2020
Coaching for “Together for Good” (3-4 sessions)	Nov 23-Dec 11, 2020
“Together for Good” Celebration	Dec 14, 2020 at 5:30pm

ABOUT SOCIAL VENTURE PARTNERS MINNESOTA

Social Venture Partners Minnesota (SVP) is a bridge between philanthropy and community...building relationships and investing for a just, thriving community. We find and connect the dollars and experiences of individual and corporate philanthropists with inspiring nonprofits that are addressing opportunity gaps for Twin Cities youth. Since 2002, we’ve invested over \$2.1 million in 60+ innovative nonprofits that are creating community-based, life-changing opportunities for thousands of youth to thrive.

SVP provides pro bono consulting and financial grants, and aims to have a material impact on the nonprofits with which we partner. Through our due diligence process, we identify and select nonprofits at a point of growth inflection, and invest in their future. SVP is committed to centering the voices and expertise of nonprofit grantees. We collaborate on gap analysis and co-create plans for strengthening and accelerating impact through capacity building projects. SVP believes that strong nonprofits deliver better, more equitable outcomes for the youth they serve.

GRANT DESCRIPTION

For this grant cycle, SVP will prioritize investing in BIPOC* led nonprofits that serve the social, developmental, and/or educational needs of under-resourced youth ages 12-24 in traditionally marginalized communities.

**For the sake of brevity, SVP uses the term BIPOC to indicate Black, Indigenous and people of color. We acknowledge each individual's right to self-identify and recognize that not all people for whom BIPOC is intended would choose to label themselves as such. SVP understands the limitations of labels and embraces both the unique and shared elements of every individual's lived experiences.*

SVP will select up to five (5) organizations for a grant relationship.

- One (1) nonprofit for a two-year general operating grant of up to \$25,000/year and a team of SVP Partner project consultants. This may be renewable for a third year.
- Up to four (4) nonprofits for a short-term project (6-9 months) consultation, including a one-time grant up to \$5000.

Selected applicants will participate in a workshop with SVP Partners. The workshop replaces the requirement for a written RFP and site visit. Participation is mandatory for applicants who want to be considered for the grant relationship. We strongly encourage participation with a team from your organization (i.e. executive director, 1-2 key staff, board member) to maximize the goals of the workshop. Each applicant team will work with several SVP Partners to meet the goals below.

The goals of the workshop are:

- Lay a foundation for the potential collaborative work ahead by meeting each other's teams
- Work shoulder-to-shoulder on an organizational assessment and analyze results together
- Identify at least one high-priority project/need where SVP Partner skills can be leveraged to the benefit of the grantee
- Discuss steps to craft a pitch about your organization and the high priority project/need that was identified

Following the workshop, up to five organizations will be selected as grant recipients as outlined above.

These finalists will work with SVP Partners on a pitch to be presented before the SVP Partnership at the "Together for Good" Celebration on Dec 14. The presentation at "Together for Good" will serve as an organizational introduction to SVP Partners and to match SVP Partner skills with the identified capacity building project.

SVP Partners are inspired to contribute their time, talent and resources to develop mutually beneficial relationships to affect social change and positive outcomes for the youth served.

SVP will consider investing in nonprofits that meet the following minimum criteria.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible nonprofits must:

- ✓ Primarily serve under-resourced youth (ages 12-24) in the seven-county metropolitan Twin Cities area.
- ✓ Demonstrate they are an innovative organization with BIPOC leadership and a vision to grow. The nonprofit they lead:
 - Must have a full time Executive Director and an established Board of Directors
 - Is inspired and acts to address social challenge(s) that youth face
 - Has workable goals to grow the impact of the organization on under-resourced youth and a plan to make the goals a reality
 - Creates clear and measurable social benefit through the value proposition they pursue
 - Demonstrates courage and persistence and bears the risks of innovation
- ✓ Be at an inflection point with some operating history and proven impact. SVP will also fund autonomous programs of established nonprofits with new and innovative approaches to elevating opportunities for youth.
- ✓ Place a higher value on capacity building collaboration over financial support. SVP's grant is a 'package deal'—we provide both a financial grant and pro bono consulting to co-create stronger organizational capacity of the nonprofit. Selected organizations must be committed to a consultative partnership with SVP and be willing to provide the human resources necessary to complete agreed upon work.
- ✓ Have an action plan to advance diversity, equity, inclusion and anti-racist work
- ✓ Be committed to growing their organization by expanding to new markets or going deeper with the populations currently being served.

DISQUALIFIERS - WHAT SOCIAL VENTURE PARTNERS DOES NOT SUPPORT

- SVP will not consider grant requests from organizations that do not focus, or plan to focus, primarily on under-resourced teens and young adults.
- SVP will not consider grant requests from organizations based outside the seven-county Twin Cities metro area.
- SVP will not consider grant requests from organizations lacking some operating history and proven impact.
- SVP will not consider grant requests from organizations that place restrictions on populations served (other than a focus on under-resourced youth), volunteers, employees or board members based on religion, race, ethnicity, skin color, gender, gender expression, age, national origin, disability, marital status, sexual orientation or military status.
- SVP will not consider grant requests from religious organizations for sectarian purposes, sports teams and political or lobbying organizations.
- SVP does not make grants to organizations for the sole purpose of fundraising events/auctions, debt reduction, endowment funds, or litigation/legal expenses.
- SVP will not grant to previous recipients of a multi-year grant.

USE OF GRANT FUNDS

A collaborative relationship with SVP is based upon co-creation of plans that build organizational capacity. SVP believes that capacity building efforts result in stronger nonprofits that can more effectively achieve their objectives, fulfill their missions and impact youth. Annual grant payments are subject to renewal criteria agreed upon in advance by the grantee and SVP. SVP has the right to deny renewals for non-performance or unforeseen circumstances. All financial grants are general operating support.

If funded, the grantee is expected to:

- Partner with SVP to assess organizational capacity needs and develop a capacity building project plan. This plan will define the scope of the project for both SVP and the grantee.
- Make adequate human resources available to shape and execute the capacity building project plan in the agreed upon timeframe.
- Multi-year grantees will provide a status report every six months to the SVP Investment Committee in collaboration with their SVP Lead Partner (i.e. main liaison and project manager).
- Provide a financial report and an annual report to SVP detailing impact of the SVP investment, provide impact metrics and resources, supply speakers, photos and case studies, attend meetings and complete SVP surveys as requested.

HOW TO APPLY

SUBMIT A LETTER OF INTEREST to info@svpmn.org – due Mon, Oct 12 no later than 12:00pm CST.

Complete the letter of interest (LOI) questions below (pp. 5-6) and return it to info@svpmn.org by **12:00pm CST on October 12, 2020.**

From the submitted letters of interest, SVP will select applicants who will be invited by October 23 to participate in the applicant workshop on November 5, as described above (p.2). Finalists will be chosen by November 17, 2020 for participation in SVP's "Together for Good" Celebration on December 14.

LETTER OF INTEREST

Please complete the organizational information section below, sign the application, and in a maximum of 3 pages, 12-point font, answer the essay questions on page 6. Do not send brochures, annual reports or other materials not specifically requested. Email to: info@svpmn.org by **Mon, October 12, 2020 no later than 12pm CST**

Organizational Information

1. Date of Application: _____ Federal Tax ID #: _____

2. Organization's Legal Name: _____

3. Mailing Address: _____

4. Contact Name and Title: _____

5. Telephone: _____ Email Address: _____

6. Website: _____

7. Are you an independent organization? Y / N
If not, what organization are you aligned with? _____
If aligned, are you autonomous from your parent organization? Y / N

8. Is your organization BIPOC led? Y / N

9. Is the leader of your organization a full-time employee dedicated to the success of an SVP partnership? Y / N

10. Size of Total Annual Operating Budget: \$ _____ Total Number of FTEs: _____

11. Have you applied to SVP before? Y / N If "Yes", in what year(s) did you apply? _____

Applicant Commitment

By signing this application, I/we indicate that the organization we represent meets the grant criteria stated above under "Eligibility Criteria" and "Disqualifiers" and I/we indicate our commitment to a fully engaged partnership as described above under "Use of Funds".

Printed Applicant Name, Title

Printed Board Chair Name

Signature

Date

Signature

Date

Essay Questions: Please answer the essay questions below in a maximum of 3 pages.

1. What social challenge does your organization address? How do you address the challenge? Please provide an overview of your programs, including the population/demographic/ages served and the number of individuals served on an annual basis.
2. Describe your organization's leadership (key staff and board of directors) and their experience in the field of the social challenge you address. Does your leadership represent the communities you serve? Please include percentages of ethnic/racial breakdown. How engaged is your Board? Will one or two board members be available to participate in the workshop?
3. Describe the impact of your organization's programs (include metrics and/or key accomplishments).
4. What is your plan for increasing your impact? How will you get there? What are the primary obstacles that could inhibit growing your impact?

Questions? Please email info@svpmn.org or call 612.440.1804.

We appreciate your interest in a collaborative relationship with SVP.