

LETTER OF INTEREST GUIDELINES

2021 Grant Cycle

GRANT CYCLE TIMELINE

Open Call for Letters of Interest	July 15, 2021
Grant Information Webinar (optional)	July 28 at 3:00pm OR July 29 at 11:30am (two sessions available)
Letters of Interest Due	August 12, 2021 by 5:00pm CST
Applicant Workshop Invitations Issued	September 2, 2021
Applicant Workshop (virtual)	September 30, 2021
Notification of Finalist Status	October 15, 2021
Coaching for “Together for Good” (3-4 sessions)	October 21 - November 9, 2021
“Together for Good” Celebration	November 11, 2021 at 6:00pm

ABOUT SOCIAL VENTURE PARTNERS MINNESOTA

Social Venture Partners Minnesota's (SVP) mission is catalyze equitable social change by expanding the impact of youth-serving organizations, and building an effective community of engaged philanthropists. Together, we're working for better futures. We believe that working vigilantly every day will allow us to achieve our vision of co-creating a world where every young person's future unfolds uncompromised by systemic injustice. SVP Minnesota is part of a large network of other SVP affiliates doing similar systems change work in cities across the United States and around the world.

SVP matches the experiences and financial contributions 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 AND REVIEW PROCESS

For this grant cycle, SVP will prioritize investing in Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) led nonprofits that serve the social, developmental, and/or educational needs of under-resourced youth ages 12-24 in the Twin Cities. We strive to impact those youth who are furthest from achieving racial, economic and social justice.

Following a thorough review of submitted LOIs, advancing applicants will participate in a workshop with SVP Partners. As we continue to shift and share power in the philanthropic sector, we believe that a more equitable approach is to utilize this workshop to replace the requirement for a written RFP and site visit. Participation in the workshop is mandatory for applicants who want to be considered for a grant relationship. We strongly encourage participation with a team from your organization (i.e., Executive Director, 1-2 key Staff, Board Member, etc.) to maximize the goals of the workshop. Each applicant team will work with several SVP Partners to meet the outcomes below.

The goals of the workshop are:

- Begin to build relationships with mutual respect and trust with each other's teams for the potential collaborative work ahead
- 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 Investees
- Discuss steps to craft a pitch about your organization and the high priority project/need that was identified

Following the workshop, SVP will select up to five (5) organizations for a grant relationship.

- Two (2) nonprofit organizations will receive 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 three (3) nonprofits organizations for a short-term project (6-9 months) consultation, including a one-time grant up to \$5,000.

These finalists will work with SVP Partners on a pitch to be presented before the SVP Partnership at the "Together for Good" Celebration on November 11, 2021. The presentation at "Together for Good" will serve as an organizational introduction to SVP Partners and to match SVP Partner skills with the organizations' identified impact building project. SVP Partners are inspired to contribute their time, talent and resources to develop relationships with our Investees in order to collectively affect positive outcomes for the youth served, as well as influence systemic changes.

ELIGIBILITY

SVP will consider investing in 501(c)(3) nonprofits that meet the following minimum criteria:

- ✓ Primarily serve under-resourced youth (ages 12-24) in the seven-county metropolitan Twin Cities area.
- ✓ Demonstrate they are an innovative organization with a vision for growth. Each applicant:
 - Must have a full-time Executive Director and an established Board of Directors
 - Has established programs, strategies or initiatives to address equity gaps that are impacting youth
 - Has clearly defined goals to increase the impact of the organization and a workplan to make these goals a reality
 - Creates clear and measurable social benefit through the value proposition they pursue
 - Demonstrates that achieving social justice requires imagination, innovation, courage and perseverance.
 - Must embrace taking risks and grow from lessons learned.
- ✓ Must have BIPOC leadership. SVP is currently placing a priority on organizations that define themselves as BIPOC-led if at least 3 of the following are true:
 - 50 percent or more of senior staff self-identify as BIPOC
 - 50 percent or more of board members self-identify as BIPOC
 - Organization has BIPOC leadership (Executive/Senior level) and is implementing DEI initiatives and/or navigating organizational transition for greater equity
 - Organization's mission explicitly focuses on racial equity and BIPOC communities
 - Project and/or initiative is being led by a majority of BIPOC group members
- ✓ 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. Selected organizations must be committed to actively engaging in a consultative partnership with SVP and be willing to provide the human capital necessary to complete agreed upon work.

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 youth ages 12-24.
- 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 or organizations that are not 501(c)3 unless they have a fiscal agent.
- 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 Investee Organization and SVP. SVP has the right to deny renewals for non-performance or unforeseen circumstances. All financial grants are for unrestricted general operating support.

If funded, the Investee 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 Investee. Expect to meet with your Impact Team approximately 2 times each month.
- Have adequate staff available to shape and execute the capacity building project plan in the agreed upon timeframe.
- Provide a status report every six months via their Impact Team 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, photos and example case studies of your work. There will be opportunities to attend meetings with other Investees' Executive Directors, opportunities to speak at events, and occasional SVP surveys for you to complete.

HOW TO APPLY

SUBMIT A LETTER OF INTEREST to info@svpmn.org – due August 12, 2021, no later than 5:00pm CST.

Complete the letter of interest (LOI) questions below (pp. 5-6) and return it to info@svpmn.org by **5:00pm CST on August 12, 2021.**

From the submitted letters of interest, SVP will select applicants who will be invited by September 2 to participate in the applicant workshop on September 30, as described above (p.2). Finalists will be chosen by October 15 for participation in SVP's "Together for Good" Celebration on November 11.

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 **Thursday, August 12, 2021 no later than 5:00pm 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 501-c-3 organization? Y / N
If not, do you have a fiscal agent? Y/N Who is your fiscal agent? _____

8. Is your organization BIPOC-led? Y / N Circle or highlight which of the following indicators reflect your organization:
 - a. 50 percent or more of senior staff self-identify as BIPOC
 - b. 50 percent or more of board members self-identify as BIPOC
 - c. Organization has BIPOC leadership (executive/senior level) and is implementing DEI initiatives and/or navigating organizational transition for greater equity
 - d. Organization's mission explicitly focuses on BIPOC communities
 - e. Project and/or initiative is being led by a majority of BIPOC group members

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. Please provide an overview of your programs, including the population/demographic/ages of youth served and the number of youth served on an annual basis.
2. How is your organization working to catalyze equitable social change?
 - a. What are the equity gaps that are most impacting youth in your program /organization?
 - b. What are the key strategies you are implementing or planning to implement to address these gaps?
 - c. How are does your work influence or become part of a solution to address inequities at the systemic level?
3. Describe your organization’s leadership (key staff and Board of Directors) and their experiences.
 - a. Does your leadership represent and have proximity to the communities you serve? Please include relevant percentages that demonstrate key demographics.
 - b. Describe your racial equity or anti-racism framework and action plans.
4. In what areas does your organization excel? Please describe the impact of your organization’s programs (include any metrics you wish to share and/or key accomplishments).
5. What is your plan for increasing your impact? Is there anything specific impeding upon your ability to achieve your intended outcomes? Do you have thoughts about how SVP can help you increase your impact or help overcome those barriers? (Typical SVP projects have included working on strategic planning, help with fundraising or financial management, communications and marketing strategies, human resources issues and more.)

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

We appreciate your interest in a collaborative relationship with SVP.