



## SOUTHWEST INITIATIVE FOUNDATION

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*The Southwest Initiative Foundation (SWIF) is offering two rounds of grants to support 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations directly serving our southwest Minnesota communities for work related to the Grow Our Own initiative.*



The Southwest Initiative Foundation is a regional champion and inclusive partner committed to prosperity for all southwest Minnesota kids and the communities they call home.

Questions can be directed to Nancy Fasching at 320-587-4848 or [nancyf@swifoundation.org](mailto:nancyf@swifoundation.org).



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## Request for Proposals Grow Our Own Responsive Grant

One in six kids in southwest Minnesota is living in poverty, and many of these kids will not break out of the cycle because the gap between opportunity and their reality is just too wide. We need to connect the kids to the opportunities here in southwest Minnesota. To do this, we are requesting proposals for grants in the following areas.

### AREAS OF FOCUS

- **Families and Parenting** – Opportunities to encourage healthier patterns of family formation and stability for children to focus supports and enable more effective parenting.
- **Schools** – Mentoring opportunities that build authentic relationships between kids living in poverty and caring adults.
- **Neighborhoods & Communities** – Intergenerational opportunities to provide wraparound community and school supports. We also look to support events for awareness building and thought leadership directly connected to kids living in poverty.
- **Career On-Ramps** – Providing opportunities for high school students to strengthen linkages between career opportunities and education.

Funding requests of up to \$5,000 will be considered. Projects must be completed within 12 months of the grant award date, at which time a final report will be due.

It is our expectation that these funds will help support proven-practice approaches. This is a highly competitive grant program with limited funds available. Not all worthy projects may receive funding.

***Applications due October 2, 2017***

***Grants awarded by November 15, 2017***



## Application Process

- Applicants must complete the pre-application questionnaire found at: <https://swifoundation.org/how-to-apply/grants/grant-pre-application-questionnaire/>
  - ➔ Please select *Grow Our Own* as the funding priority you are applying for
- You will receive an e-mail confirming our receipt of your pre-application questionnaire
- For consideration of the Grow Our Own grant RFP, please complete the additional questions below in a Word document and email them to [grants@swifoundation.org](mailto:grants@swifoundation.org) with the subject line “*Grow Our Own Grant Additional Questions – Organization Name*” by the grant deadline of **October 2**.

### **ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:**

1. Describe the need within your community for the proposed project.
2. Describe how your approach is based on an established best practice approach that will most likely lead to the desired outcomes.
3. Describe how this project impacts southwest Minnesota children and families.
4. List any other organizations you are collaborating with on this project.
5. Any other information you would like to provide.

- Upon receipt, your pre-application questionnaire and additional questions will be filed together and assigned to a staff grant reviewer for consideration. They will contact you with questions and schedule a site visit, if deemed necessary.
- You will be informed of the decision by November 15.

## Grant Guidelines

- 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, and the Upper and Lower Sioux Indian Communities
- Proposals must be submitted by an independent 501(c)(3) organization, a unit of government, or by a public agency.
- Funding requests of up to \$5,000 will be considered; Matching funds are encouraged.
- Projects must be completed within 12 months of the grant award date.
- Only one grant application may be submitted per organization.
- A final report is due following the grant period.

## Grant Exclusions

### ***Ineligible organizations or activities include:***

- Individuals, businesses, or other for-profit organizations
- General operating expenses or specific religious purposes
- Capital funding, campaigns or endowments
- Funds for re-granting



## Grow Our Own Grant Award Selection Criteria

***Proposals that are in line with the criteria below will receive priority consideration in our grant review process.***

- Applicant organization meets all eligibility criteria and requirements specified in this RFP
- Applicant organization's mission and primary programs, services, and/or activities strongly align with the Southwest Initiative Foundation's mission and goals around Grow Our Own
- Community need — Community has a high percentage of youth living in poverty
- Impact — projects that demonstrate an overall impact within Southwest Initiative Foundation's 18-county region through an evidence-based approach or proven practice solution
- Asset-based approaches — projects that maximize the strengths, talents and resources of the local community
- Collaboration/partnership — projects that work with other organizations in unique and impactful ways
- Innovation— projects that can link to best practice solutions to move children out of poverty
- Replicability — projects that can easily be replicated throughout the SWIF region

### Have you included everything?

- Pre-Application Questionnaire
  - Selected *Grow Our Own* under funding priority
- Completed additional questions in a Word document
- Submitted additional questions to [grants@swifoundation.org](mailto:grants@swifoundation.org) with subject line "Grow Our Own Grant Additional Questions" prior to **October 2, 2017**

## Our Framework

Focus areas for the Grow Our Own grant strategy follows a framework of specific areas that help kids reach their full potential.

In addition to the four areas for this grant RFP, early childhood is an additional focus. SWIF's RFP for early care and education grants closed April 21, 2017.



**STABLE FAMILY AND PARENTING**



**HIGH QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD**



**ENGAGEMENT IN THE K-12 YEARS,  
BOTH IN AND OUT OF SCHOOL**



**SAFE & CARING NEIGHBORHOODS  
AND COMMUNITIES**



**CAREER ON-RAMPS FOR SUCCESS**