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# Request for Proposals COVID-19 Recovery Nonprofit Capacity Grants



SOUTHWEST INITIATIVE  
FOUNDATION

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Hutchinson, MN 55350  
800-594-9480 or 320-587-4848

[swifoundation.org](http://swifoundation.org)

The Southwest Initiative Foundation is offering a round of capacity building grants to support the vitality of 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations directly serving our southwest Minnesota people and communities. These capacity building activities are intended to support the nonprofit's ability to carry out its work as it navigates beyond COVID-19.

It is our goal through this work to build the strength and long-term vitality of the organizations to deliver quality programming efficiently and effectively.

Questions can be directed to:  
Nancy Fasching  
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Excellence. Accountability. Impact.™

Applications accepted through June 4, 2021

## Areas of Focus

- **Mission, Vision and Strategy** – Activities to strengthen the core planning of an organization in line with its overall purpose. Examples include strategic planning and program evaluation.
- **Governance and Leadership** – Activities geared toward strengthening equity, fostering leadership and governance. Examples include cultural competency development, succession planning or board training.
- **Resource Development** – Activities designed to ensure financial stability. Examples include business or financial planning, marketing or fundraising strategy development.
- **Internal Operations and Management** – Activities contributing to a strong and sound core infrastructure. Examples include staff development, analysis of racially equitable practices or infrastructure including technology. Major capital expenses are excluded.
- **Assistance with Core Operations** – Filling revenue gaps created by COVID-19's disruption. Sustainability must be identified.

Funding requests of up to \$5,000 will be considered. The expectation is that the project will be completed within 12 months of the grant award date.

This is a competitive grant program. These funds are dedicated to strengthening the fabric of our regional nonprofits. Grants will be awarded in an ongoing manner until available funds have been depleted.

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## Application Process

- Applicants must complete the grant application online: <https://swifoundation.tfaforms.net/4762053>. This is an abbreviated application that focuses on COVID-19 recovery.
- Once submitted, you will receive an e-mail confirming we received your application. You will be asked to confirm your submission.
- This will be an open grant process through June 4, 2021. Grant requests received by the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month will be reviewed within the month following submission on an ongoing basis.
- A member of our grant team will contact you if there are questions related to your application.
- Southwest Initiative Foundation reserves the right to make modifications to the program in response to community need and available resources.

## Eligibility Criteria

- All proposals must demonstrate a benefit within one or more of 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; or the Upper Sioux Community or Lower Sioux Indian Community.
- Proposals must be submitted by an independent 501(c)(3) organization, a unit of government, religious institution, or educational entity. Entities must be in good community standing.
- Funding requests between \$500 and \$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
- Activities that support a specific religion or religious purpose
- Capital funding, campaigns or endowments
- Funds for re-granting

## 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](#)
- Projects demonstrate a strong plan for recovery within the areas of focus identified herein
- Projects successfully fill critical gaps and build for the future to support the long-term sustainability of southwest Minnesota's nonprofit sector
- Projects that demonstrate an equitable approach in promoting dignity and belonging as core human values, recognizing that all people deserve the opportunity to reach their full potential
- Projects demonstrate a sound financial plan and use of resources
- Projects join with other organizations in unique and impactful ways through collaboration and partnership

Contact Nancy Fasching with questions at (320)583-1787 or [nancyf@swifoundation.org](mailto:nancyf@swifoundation.org)

