

Request for Proposals



Together We Thrive Grants

The Southwest Initiative Foundation envisions a southwest Minnesota where all people thrive. Our mission is connecting people, investing in ideas and building communities. We bring people together to find solutions that benefit the entire region because we know we're better together. We are seeking partners who help create belonging with grants supporting the following areas.

Together we grow, providing a strong foundation for youth to develop essential skills and resilience. These projects will:

- Include culturally responsive tools that assist youth and parents to develop essential skills.
- Use innovative approaches that remove barriers to child development.
- Increase workforce or civic volunteer development.

Together we thrive, fostering thriving communities by empowering them to prioritize mental wellness. These projects will:

- Improve access to culturally responsive mental and/or physical healthcare.
- Explore embedding culturally informed healing practices into established health systems.
- Build opportunities to increase community awareness and to understand the potential for individual, collective and cultural healing as an antidote to toxic stress, anxiety and trauma.
- Seed experimental community programs that introduce linguistically and culturally meaningful practices and expand the scope of practitioners over time.

Together we belong, creating a sense of belonging through collaborative projects that bring together individuals from diverse backgrounds. These projects will:

- Support events that encourage all community members to form new social connections.
- Unite for joy and belonging.
- Improve community resilience.

Grantees will be invited to an optional "poster session" convening in spring 2025 to make connections across communities and learn from each other's work.

Southwest Initiative Foundation enthusiastically welcomes inclusive partnerships and actively seeks grantees and partners who share our commitment to belonging by incorporating diversity into their missions, fostering diverse leadership within their organizations, and ensuring the communities they serve are reflected in their work.

The grant application deadline is 5 p.m. on May 31, 2024



SOUTHWEST INITIATIVE
FOUNDATION

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CFNS
ACCREDITED
FOUNDATION

Confirmed in Compliance with National
Standards for U.S. Community Foundations
An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Application Process

- Applicants must complete the grant application at: <https://swifoundation.tfaforms.net/4762009>
- You will receive an email confirming our receipt of your application.
- **The grant deadline is 5 p.m. on May 31, 2024.**
- If additional information is needed to process your application, a member of the grant team will contact you. You will be informed of the decision in July.
- Southwest Initiative Foundation reserves the right to make modifications to the program in response to community need and available resources.

Grant Guidelines

- 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.
- Funding requests of between \$500 to \$5,000 will be considered.
- Projects must be completed within 12 months of the grant award date.
- Only one grant application may be submitted per organization.
- A final report may be due following the grant period.

Grant Exclusions

Ineligible organizations or activities include:

- Capital funding, fundraising campaigns or endowments; specific religious purposes/activities; or funds for re-granting.
- Individuals, businesses or other for-profit organizations.

Grant Award Selection Criteria

Each grant application will be reviewed holistically; elements contributing to final grant award may include:

- Applicant meets all eligibility criteria and any other requirements specified in this RFP.
- Applicant incorporates diversity into its mission, fosters diverse leadership within its organization and ensures the communities it serves are reflected in its work.
- Applicant demonstrates a track record of responsible financial management and achieving results that justify the funding requested.
- Applicant works with other organizations in unique and impactful ways.
- Project is accessible to all members of the community.
- Project has an anticipated return on investment including financial independence or contributing to the ecosystem which it serves.
- Project demonstrates an alignment with the Grow our Own framework, including strong and healthy families, high quality early care and education, K-12 engagement, vibrant and welcoming communities and career pathways.