SVP 2023 Grant Guidelines and Letter of Interest Form

Grant Cycle Timeline

Open Call for Letters of Interest: June 20, 2023
Grant Information Webinar (optional): June 28 at 12:00pm OR June 29 at 4:00pm
Letters of Interest Due: July 20, 2023 by 5:00pm CST
Applicant Workshop Invitations Issued: Aug 15, 2023
Applicant Workshop (virtual): Sept 14, 2023
Notification of Finalist Status: October 3, 2023
“Together for Good” Celebration: January Date TBD 2024

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 $2.2 million in 100+ 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 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 format to replace the requirement for a written additional Grant Application 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 Partners’ 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 (Investees) for partnerships in these two formats:
- **SVP Multi-Year Partnership Grant:** The nonprofit organization(s) selected will receive a two-year general operating grant of up to $20,000 per year plus a designated Impact Team of SVP Partners.
- **SVP Impact Accelerator Cohort:** Up to three (3) nonprofit organizations will be selected to participate in an Impact Accelerator Cohort that will run from March to November 2024. There will be five (5) sessions that the Executive Director will be required to attend, and they may choose to include other staff or board members. These sessions will include coaching, peer-learning and educational opportunities covering nonprofit management topics as well as topics selected by the cohort. Organizations selected for this cohort experience will also receive a one-time, unrestricted grant of $3,500 at the end of the year.

New Investees will work with SVP Staff and Partners on a presentation SVP’s “Together for Good” Annual Meeting and Celebration on in January 2024. The presentation at Together for Good will serve as the Investees’ introduction to SVP Partners so that we can best match SVP Partners’ skillset with the Investees’ impact building project. SVP Partners are inspired to contribute their time, talent, and resources to develop relationships with Investees as they work collectively to affect positive outcomes for the youth served and influence systemic changes.
ELIGIBILITY

SVP will consider investing in organizations that meet the following minimum criteria:

✓ The organization is a Nonprofit 501(c) (3). SVP will also consider funding autonomous programs of established large nonprofits with new and innovative approaches to elevating opportunities for youth. SVP will also accept applications from nonprofits that have a fiscal sponsor for their organization.

✓ The organization must 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.
  o Has established programs, strategies or initiatives to address equity gaps that are impacting youth
  o Has clearly defined goals to increase the impact of the organization and a workplan to make these goals a reality
  o Creates clear and measurable benefits for the youth they serve and make a clear social change impact for the community
  o Demonstrates that achieving social justice requires imagination, innovation, courage and perseverance.
  o Must embrace taking risks and grow from lessons learned.

✓ Multi-Year Grant Partnership applicants must have a full-time Executive Director, an established Board of Directors, a budget of over $300,000 and at least 3.0 FTE staff members.

✓ Impact Accelerator Cohort applicants do not necessarily have to meet all the budgetary or staffing requirements noted in the above bullet point.

✓ 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:
  o 50 percent or more of senior staff self-identify as BIPOC
  o 50 percent or more of board members self-identify as BIPOC
  o Organization has BIPOC leadership (Executive/Senior level) and is implementing DEI initiatives and/or navigating organizational changes for greater equity
  o Organization’s mission explicitly focuses on racial equity and BIPOC communities
  o 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.

✓ 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 discriminate based on religion, race, ethnicity, skin color, gender, gender expression, 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 in an effort to amplify impact for the community. SVP believes that capacity building efforts result in stronger nonprofits that can more effectively achieve their objectives, fulfill their missions and increase the impacts with the youth they serve. Annual grant payments are subject to renewal criteria. SVP has the right to deny renewals for non-performance or unforeseen circumstances. All financial grants are for unrestricted, general operating support.

✓ If funded for a **SVP Multi-Year Partnership Grant**, the Investee is expected to:
  ● Partner with SVP to assess organizational needs and develop an impact project plan. This plan will define the scope of the project for both SVP and the Investee. Investee attendance is expected at each bi-monthly Impact Team meeting.
  ● Have staffing capacity to shape and execute the capacity building project plan in the agreed upon timeframe.
  ● Provide a status reports via their Impact Team to SVP in collaboration with their SVP Lead Partner (i.e., main liaison and project manager).
  ● Provide a financial and annual report upon request to SVP detailing the impact of SVP’s investment, provide impact metrics, complete occasional surveys, and submit photos and/or case studies of your work.
  ● There will also be engagement opportunities to attend meetings with other Investee Executive Directors, SVP community events, workshops, and more.

✓ If funded for the **SVP Impact Accelerator Cohort**, the Investee is expected to:
  ● Partner with SVP to assess organizational capacity and explore areas related to nonprofit management.
  ● Regularly attend cohort meetings every other month from March to November 2024. (5 sessions in total)

**HOW TO APPLY**

● SUBMIT A LETTER OF INTEREST to info@svpmn.org – by July 20, 2023, no later than 5:00pm CST.

● Letter of Interest Form can be found on our website at https://svpmn.org/get-involved/apply-for-a-grant/ and is also attached below.

● From the submitted Letters of Interest, SVP will select applicants who will be invited by August 15th to participate in the applicant workshop on September 14th, as described above (pg.2). Finalists will be chosen by October 3rd to receive a grant in 2024 and participate in SVP’s “Together for Good” Celebration in January.
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 7. Do not send brochures, annual reports or other materials not specifically requested. Email completed application to: info@svpmn.org by Thursday, July 20th – 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&B 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. How many youth do you serve annually?

12. Have you applied to SVP before? Y / N If “Yes”, in what year(s) did you apply?
13. Which of the following opportunities is your organization interested in applying? (Check all that apply)

___ **SVP Multi-Year Partnership Grant:** This includes a $20,000 grant award per year for 2 years (2023 AND 2024) plus active participation in required, bi-monthly collaboration meetings with a designated SVP Impact Team.

___ **SVP Impact Accelerator Cohort:** This includes a one-time $3,500 grant award plus active participation in a cohort experience with other nonprofit leaders. This cohort will meet for 5 sessions between March-November 2023 and each session will focus on topics related to nonprofit management.

**Applicant Commitment**

By signing this application, 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 challenges?
   c. How 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 the organization’s leadership represent and have proximity to the communities you serve? Please include relevant experience and demographics of your leadership that demonstrate this.
   b. Describe your racial equity or anti-racism framework and any relevant action plans or strategic work you are doing in this area.

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 barriers? (Typical SVP projects have included working on things such as developing strategic plans, governance and board development, financial management, marketing and communications, human resources and staffing issues or other organizational development challenges that are most important for the organization)

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

*We appreciate your interest in a collaborative relationship with SVP MN.*