



SVP 2025 GRANT GUIDELINES AND LETTER OF INTEREST FORM

GRANT CYCLE TIMELINE

- Open Call for Letters of Interest August 5, 2025
- Letters of Interest Due August 25, 2025 4:00 pm
- Applicant Invitations Issued by October 3, 2025
- Applicant Meetings October 6-17, 2025
- Notification of Finalist Status November 11, 2025
- Set 30, 60, 90 Day Goals Date TBD
- **60 Day Check in** **Date TBD**
 - **NOTE: This time is set aside to decide, together, to celebrate wins or end the partnership. SVP is not for all organizations. The collaboration piece can be wonderful & we are committed to make it so, however in some cases it just is not a great fit and we will respectfully part ways.**
- “Together for Good” Celebration May 2026 - DATE TBD

ABOUT SOCIAL VENTURE PARTNERS MINNESOTA

We want to partner with you and your organization! Social Venture Partners Minnesota's (SVP) mission is to accelerate the impact of youth-serving nonprofits in the Twin Cities by fostering a community of engaged philanthropists. We believe that working together allows us to achieve our vision of co-creating a world where every young person has the opportunity to pursue a better future. SVP Minnesota is part of a global network of affiliates doing similar work in cities across the United States and around the world.

In Minnesota, Social Venture Partners' four core values guide our work:

- Equity is imperative
- Impact demands systemic change
- Relationships propel us
- We must be bold

SVP matches the experiences and financial contributions of individual and corporate philanthropists with inspiring nonprofits that address opportunity gaps for Twin Cities youth. Since 2002, we've invested over \$2.2 million in over a hundred innovative nonprofits creating community-based, life-changing opportunities for thousands of youth to thrive.

SVP provides pro bono consulting, financial grants, and community connections. We aim to materially impact the nonprofits with which we partner. Through our due diligence process, we identify and select nonprofits at a point of growth or change and invest in their future. SVP is committed to centering the voices and expertise of nonprofit grantees. We collaborate and co-create plans to strengthen and accelerate impact through capacity-building projects. SVP believes that strong nonprofits deliver better, more equitable outcomes for the youth they serve.

Our partners come from all different backgrounds and experiences. We are a small and mighty group of philanthropists with various skills to help your organization with needs you identify. We are marketers, creative problem solvers, financial leaders, social media pros, educators, non-profit professionals, entrepreneurs, connectors, and builders who want to help your organization achieve your vision.



To get a taste of what type of projects SVP has worked on, [please go to our website](#) to hear directly from leaders we have worked with. Or take a moment [to listen](#) to one of our alumni Investee Partners share her impressions of the experience.

GRANT DESCRIPTION AND REVIEW PROCESS

For this grant cycle, SVP will prioritize organizations in the midst of significant change or facing a high-growth opportunity. Are you thinking about changing a program or starting one to better serve the immediate needs of your community? Or perhaps you are thinking it is time to merge with another non profit or thinking about a strategic sunset. **What are the big questions you're wrestling with—or the ones you know you *should* be asking but haven't yet? Let SVP help you think through what to do next—or even where to begin.**

Following a thorough review of submitted LOIs, advancing applicants will participate in a conversation with our partners to define the work and decide if SVP is right for your needs. As we continue to share power in the philanthropic sector, we believe it's imperative to deeply understand each other. Are we the group that, at this point, can truly be helpful?

We strongly encourage participation with someone from your organization (i.e., Executive Director, a Board Member, Staff or a key volunteer, etc.) to maximize the goals of the conversation. Each applicant team will work with several SVP Partners to meet the outcomes below.

The goals of the conversation are:

- Get to know each other! Will this be a great fit for both of us?
- Begin to build relationships with mutual respect and trust with each others' teams for the potential collaborative work ahead.
- Get clear with the high-priority project/need where SVP Partners' skills can be leveraged to the benefit of the Investees

Following the conversation, selected organizations will be notified of a grant award (\$5,000-\$20,000) and a team assigned to execute the agreed upon work.

New Investee Partners will also have a chance to work with SVP Staff and Partners on a presentation at SVP's **"Together for Good"** Celebration in May 2026. The presentation at *Together for Good* will showcase the good work we will do together. This is a great opportunity for your organization to attract new volunteers and donors, and to celebrate all the important work your organization does. We want to celebrate our joyful partnership together!!

Over the past 20 years, we've worked with 123 organizations and have achieved great success. On average they have doubled their revenue and deepened their impact. We are eager to help you meet your mission and support your success!

ELIGIBILITY

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

- ✓ **The organization is a Nonprofit 501 (C)(3). SVP will also accept applications from nonprofits that have a fiscal sponsor for their organization.**
- ✓ Serve under-resourced youth (ages 12-24) in the seven-county metropolitan Twin Cities area.(Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington)
- ✓ Demonstrate they are an innovative organization willing to reimagine how to approach challenges.
- ✓ ***Place as high a value on capacity building collaboration as 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 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.

USE OF GRANT FUNDS

We hope to build a lasting relationship with you. We are here to learn from you and hope that you will lean on us to learn as well. A collaborative relationship with SVP is based upon co-creation of plans 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.

- 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.
- Have at least one staff person assigned to be our main point of contact.
- 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 local and global community events, workshops, and more. (SVP ED Cohort)



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 midnight on **August 25, 2025**

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 the leader of your organization a full-time employee dedicated to the success of an SVP partnership? Y / N
9. Size of Total Annual Operating Budget: \$ _____ Total Number of FTEs: _____
10. How many youth do you serve annually? _____
11. Have you applied to SVP before? Y / N If "Yes", in what year(s) did you apply? _____

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 mission, vision, values as well as the programs that serve youth.
2. Please share the population/demographic/ages of youth served and the number of youth served on an annual basis. If your numbers feel small, that is okay. We are also curious about the depth in which you serve those young people. Please share how you holistically support your youth.
3. SVP believes equity is imperative. We value the diversity of lived experiences to inform decisions on how to change inequitable systems. [Research shows](#) that in the state of MN for organizations BIPOC leadership is 10-20%. Today, 70% of our Staff and Board of Directors identify as BIPOC. We believe that we need all voices and lived experiences to help guide the direction of our giving. SVP, like all organizations, is a work in progress. How is your organization working to close equity gaps in your leadership?
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. Please share a time when a collaboration with another organization helped address inequitable systems impacting the youth you serve.
6. **What inflection point are you currently in that you believe SVP might help you solve?** Are you thinking about changing a program, starting one to better serve the immediate needs of your community? Or perhaps you are thinking it is time to merge with another non profit, a strategic sunset, or it is time to reduce or even shut down a program to focus on the program you know has the biggest impact. **What are those big questions you are asking or you know you should be asking but are not sure what to ask?** Let SVP help you think about what to do or what to even begin to ask.
7. What has your experience been working with volunteer consultants? Is there anything specific impeding upon your ability to partner with SVP?

*Questions? Please email Ellen Walthour, ewalthour@svpmn.org or call 612.483-0167
We are happy to talk to you about the application process and answer any questions you may have.*

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