

Webinar FAQ

Nonprofit Infrastructure Grant Program

Cultural Leadership

1. We are a small culturally-specific organization and most of our staff is from a culturally underserved community; however, our board is not. Are we still eligible even though our board does not reflect cultural leadership?
 - a. We understand that finding diverse board members can be difficult in some Minnesota communities, but we will prioritize cultural leadership in the selection process. You will have a chance to make a case in the application to explain why your board lacks cultural leadership and other ways your organization displays cultural leadership.
2. What is the “culturally specific” grant priority? Would this include regional culture?
 - a. No, the grant focuses primarily on racial, ethnic, native, and immigrant communities. Regional culture does not apply.

Budget

3. How is “small nonprofit” defined, and is the budget expense level requirement flexible?
 - a. “Small nonprofit” is defined as a 501(c)3 or fiscally sponsored organization with current budget expenses equal to or less than \$500,000. This is a non-negotiable grant requirement.
4. If attaining this grant would put our organization over the \$500,000 budget limit, does it over qualify us?
 - a. No, we are looking at your current budget.
5. Does this grant require more funders for the program or project?
 - a. No, but please include in the application if you plan to use other funders for your proposed project activities.
6. Are we eligible if we receive other funding from the state government or legislature?
 - a. Yes
7. Are organizations currently in a deficit eligible to apply?
 - a. Yes, there will be an opportunity to explain in further detail your organization’s financial health, history, and sustainability plan.
8. Can a social enterprise with a budget of \$100,000 apply under a larger nonprofit?
 - a. It depends. If the social enterprise is an independent 501(c)3 or fiscally sponsored organization, they are eligible. If the social enterprise is a program within an organization that exceeds the \$500,000 budget requirement they are not eligible.

Geographic Focus

9. Is a certain amount of funding dedicated to organizations in Greater MN, and will the selection committee reflect communities in Greater MN?
 - a. We are working to recruit grant applicants and selection committee members in Greater MN and are intentionally reaching out to organizations in those regions. We are committed to the grantees reflecting as much of Minnesota as possible.
10. We are a local nonprofit but we serve communities in East Africa. Are we eligible?
 - a. No, we are not able to support organizations whose primary work is international or outside of Minnesota.
11. We are a national organization with national reach, located in Minneapolis and working with communities in Minnesota. Are we eligible?
 - a. Organizations that have geographic reach beyond MN qualify, but the work needs to have a connection to Minnesota-based initiatives.
12. Is there a preference for Promise Zone Neighborhood affiliated organizations?
 - a. No

Application and Selection Process

13. Can an organization apply for more than one of the 3 grant categories listed?
 - a. Yes, there is an option to select multiple program categories. Please be sure to reflect the different strategies in your workplan narrative.
14. Will copying from Microsoft Word and pasting into the application work?
 - a. Yes, although application is able to be saved and resumed.
15. Can we get access to the online application in Microsoft Word or PDF?
 - a. The RFP online is similar to the application, but we will see if we are able to create a PDF version and publish it as a follow up to the webinars.
16. Are staff from Propel available to provide support for RFP drafting?
 - a. [Mario Hernandez](#) and [Sarah Leistico](#) can provide some guidance on eligible activities and programs. We're happy to field those questions, but we can't specifically provide drafting support due to an uncertain number of applicants.
17. Will the selection committee be solely responsible for selecting grantees or will Propel Nonprofits staff be involved in the selection process?
 - a. Propel Nonprofits staff will help with training and facilitating meetings, but they will not be included in selection of the grantees.

Eligible Program Activities

18. Can you give examples of partnership activities that would be funded?
 - a. There are a variety of eligible activities: for example, partners might share administrative structure, program alignments (workforce development training and outreach in community), or setup a collaborative to secure funding for multiple organizations in the community.

19. Are arts organizations eligible?
 - a. Yes.

20. Would this grant allow us to bring a current consulting contractor into our organization as an employee to build and train sustainable systems and infrastructure?
 - a. Yes

21. Would this grant cover the cost to become a 501(c)3?
 - a. Yes

22. Is office rental space considered an eligible grant expense?
 - a. Yes, there is a category in budget for "other" where you can include overhead items such as office space.