



Vibrant Communities Grant Program **MENTAL HEALTH**

FAQs FOR GRANT APPLICANTS

WHAT IS THE ST. CROIX VALLEY FOUNDATION?

The St. Croix Valley Foundation (SCVF) is a regional community foundation founded in 1995 to enhance the quality of life in the St. Croix Valley. The SCVF supports ten completely volunteer run affiliated foundations in six counties throughout the St. Croix Valley including Chisago and Washington Counties in MN and Burnett, Polk, St. Croix and Pierce counties in WI. One strategy that puts our mission to work is foundation-led competitive grant programs that respond to region-wide needs while supporting community organizations.

WHAT IS THE VIBRANT COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM?

In partnership with our Affiliates, the St. Croix Valley Foundation launched the *Together we are Stronger* endowment campaign to raise unrestricted funds to better respond to our community's needs. Each year, based on an analysis of qualitative and quantitative data, we will determine a focus for those unrestricted dollars and mount the **Vibrant Communities Grant Program** to respond.

WHY IS THE CURRENT FOCUS ON MENTAL HEALTH?

For many years, qualitative and quantitative health data has identified mental health and substance abuse as priority issues throughout SCVF's six-county service area. The increased isolation and stress due to COVID-19 has exacerbated what was already a significant concern.

WHAT WILL GRANTS FROM THIS FUND SUPPORT?

SCVF's **Vibrant Communities** grant program intends to support organizations addressing the **behavioral health** needs of our communities to promote good mental health by providing program/project support for:

- Intervention for individuals experiencing mental illness and/or substance use disorder.
- Efforts that prevent mental illness, encourage resiliency, and help improve overall psychological well-being.

WHAT TYPES OF ORGANIZATIONS ARE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE A GRANT FROM THE FUND?

Due to the charitable structure of the **Vibrant Communities** fund, applicants must be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, partner with an eligible fiscal agent, or be a governmental entity, tribal entity, educational or religious organization defined as tax exempt.

HOW CAN MY ORGANIZATION APPLY TO RECEIVE FUNDING?

Eligible organizations that would like to apply may access the online application at www.scvfoundation.org.

IS THERE A GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS FOR THIS GRANT PROGRAM?

YES. Community-based organizations must serve at least one of SCVF's ten Affiliate Areas (please reference the [SCVF-Affiliate Service Area map](#)). Applicants will indicate on the application which areas they serve, and detail the mental health interventions, policy, or projects they are implementing in that specific geography.

WHAT IS THE GRANT REQUEST MAXIMUM?

- Affiliate Community Grants: \$500 to \$5,500: Requests serving one Affiliate Area.
- Multi-Affiliate Grants: \$500 to \$10,000: Requests serving more than one Affiliate Area.

WHAT ARE THE PRIORITY POPULATIONS?

- Vulnerable populations (including, but not limited to, children, the elderly, victims of domestic abuse, LGBTQ+, persons with disabilities).
- Communities of color and indigenous peoples.
- Low-income families.

CAN INDIVIDUALS APPLY FOR FUNDING?

NO. The **Vibrant Communities** Fund is not able to provide direct grants to individuals. Instead, we will grant to community-based organizations administering appropriate and innovative programs that are directly supporting those most affected.

WHO WILL MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT WHAT IS FUNDED?

Grants from the **Vibrant Communities** Fund will be recommended by diverse review panels comprised of invested community members, behavioral and public health professionals, affiliated community foundation board members, and other community partners.

HOW WILL THE PANEL MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT WHAT IS FUNDED?

The panel will review proposals in a closed meeting, in accordance with a conflict-of-interest policy, and using the following criteria:

- The organization is equipped to deliver mental health programming to priority populations
- There is strong rationale for the proposed work.
- Project details are thorough, and the scope is appropriate.
- The desired outcomes are defined and realistic.
- There is a compelling case for how the proposed activities will benefit participants and produce intended outcomes.

WHAT IS THE TIMING FOR THE GRANT PROGRAM?

- Application Live: Monday, **February 14, 2022**
- Application Due: Monday, **March 14, 2022** at 5:00 pm
- Notifications Mailed: Mid-April
- Grant funds must be expended within one year from the date of the award

WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF PREVIOUSLY FUNDED MENTAL HEALTH GRANTS?

- **Youth Action** (Hudson, WI) received a \$2,185 grant to provide *Mental Wellness Ambassador* training to high school youth to prepare them to support peers during times of need.
- The **Prescott School District** (Prescott, WI) received a \$4,370 grant to offer the universal depression and suicide screening program in grades 7, 9, and 11.
- **Minnesota Recovery Connection** (Washington County) received a \$4,775 grant to fund the Mobile Substance Use Disorders (SUDs) program. SUD's is a team of professional Peer Recovery Specialists providing 1:1 crisis intervention.
- **Interfaith Caregivers of Polk County** received a \$3,750 to provide programming and companionship for seniors and adults with disabilities.

WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF GRANTS THAT ARE LESS COMPELLING?

Grants for capital expenditures without corresponding programming. For example, an organization may apply to improve a biking/walking trail system. The trail system alone will not score well during review (using the criteria noted above). That application would be more compelling if the applicant included corresponding programming that actively engages community in walking/biking and strives to accomplish specific outcomes through that programming.

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

Please contact Angie Pilgrim at apilgrim@scvfoundation.org.