



ST. CROIX VALLEY FOUNDATION

2021 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. The grant program will fund both crisis intervention *and* efforts that prevent mental illness and encourage resiliency including:

- **General Operating Support:**
 - Organization's mission, programs, and services focus on mental health.
- **Project/Program Support:**
 - Crisis intervention for individuals experiencing mental illness and/or substance use disorder.
 - Mental wellness programs that engage vulnerable populations.

IS THE APPLICATION FOR GENERAL OPERATING AND PROGRAM SUPPORT THE SAME?

YES. On the application, applicants will indicate whether they are applying for general operating or program support. Applicants whose mission and programs focus on mental health may choose to apply for general operating support. The program details of a general operating request encompass what the organization needs to carry out their mission and make an impact with their clients. Applicants whose organizational mission does not focus on mental health may choose to apply for specific activities, policies, or projects that promote good mental health.

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 SCVF's ten Affiliate Communities (please reference the SCVF-Affiliate Service Area map).

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL GRANT?

Applicants will indicate on the application whether they are applying for the **Community** or **Regional** grant opportunity.

- **Community Grant:** Seven SCVF Affiliates (including Amery Community Foundation, Chisago Lakes Area Community Foundation, Hudson Community Foundation, Northwest Alliance Community Foundation, Prescott Foundation, River Falls Community Foundation, and Somerset Community Foundation) are offering a community grant program to local organizations implementing mental health interventions, policy, or projects specific to **one** of those participating Affiliate communities. The grant request maximum is \$2,500.
- **Regional Grant:** Three SCVF Affiliates (Lower St. Croix Valley Community Foundation, New Richmond Area Community Foundation, and Stillwater Area Community Foundation) are partnering with SCVF to offer a regional grant program for organizations implementing mental health interventions, policy, or projects in **more than one** participating Affiliate community. The grant request maximum is \$10,000.

CAN ORGANIZATIONS APPLY FOR BOTH THE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL GRANT?

NO. An organization is limited to one proposal for the **Vibrant Communities** grant program.

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. For more information about resources for individuals in your local community, please contact the United Way 211.

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 has the capacity to deliver programming to priority populations
- There is strong rationale for the proposed work.
- Project details are thorough, and the scope is appropriate.
- There is a compelling case for how the proposed activities will benefit participants and produce intended outcomes.

WILL THE PANEL GIVE ANY CONSIDERATION TO OTHER FUNDING PRIORITIES?

YES. Additional consideration will be given to work that engages identified priority populations including, but not limited to, children, the elderly, victims of domestic abuse, LGBTQ, persons with disabilities, low-income families, communities of color, and indigenous peoples.

WHAT IS THE TIMING FOR THE GRANT PROGRAM?

- Application Live: Monday, **February 8, 2021**
- Application Due: Monday, **March 8, 2021**
- Notifications Mailed: Mid-April
- Grant funds must be expended within one year from the date of the award