**HEALTH AND WELLNESS** **COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM**

**Overview and Eligibility**

The county public health departments in the St. Croix Valley service area consider obesity a top health priority. Consequently, the Health and Wellness grant program currently focuses on childhood obesity. The goal of this program is to address childhood obesity by exploring the interaction between physical activity, healthy eating and natural resources in the St. Croix Valley—known for its natural beauty and parks, farms, gardens, open spaces, forests, trails, lakes and rivers.

To be eligible, applicants must be a public or private school and/or a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization that has existed for at least two years prior to the application. Grant funds must be used for programming within / or benefitting the St. Croix Valley (Washington and Chisago counties in Minnesota and Pierce, Polk, Burnett and St. Croix counties in Wisconsin).

Applicants must also have no outstanding final reports due to the SCVF for this grant program.

**Funding Criteria**

Programs that improve access to healthy foods and/or create opportunities for outdoor activity in one of our region’s natural areas.

The SCVF reviews proposals using the following criteria:

* The proposal demonstrates a clear need for the project.
* The program will improve access to healthy foods for children, youth and families.
* The program will improve access to physical activities that engage children, youth and families in outdoor places.
* There is a clearly defined plan, including both achievable and measureable outcomes, project activities and timeline.
* The proposal describes a plan to measure stated project outcomes.
* The budget is realistic, the project is financially feasible and budget details are provided.
* The program benefits children and families in the St. Croix Valley.

**Eligible Expenses**

Grant funds must be expended within one year from the date of the award. Grants cannot be used for uniforms or for expenses already incurred by the applicant.

**Grant Range**  
Grants can range from $500 to $5,000, depending on the project’s scope and impact. Proposals may be awarded partial funding.

**Proposal Limits**

An organization is limited to one proposal for each grant program. An applicant may submit a proposal for a different SCVF grant program during the same grant cycle if they are eligible.

**Decision-Making Process**

A panel reviews proposals in a closed meeting. Decisions in all grant programs follow an established review process and are made according to a conflict of interest policy.