2021 Community Grants
Frequently Asked Questions

Funding Criteria and Priorities

*What types of projects or programs are you prioritizing?*
Sonoma County Vintners Foundation Community Grants is pleased to continue our commitment to four key program areas: Health and Human Services, Education, Environment and Arts and Culture.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Area</th>
<th>Funding Priority</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health and Human Services</td>
<td>Supporting basic human needs that have been exacerbated during the pandemic. Funding will target <strong>immediate and direct critical safety net services</strong>. Examples include access to food, shelter/housing, transportation, or medical expenses. Organizations that have strong existing relationships with vulnerable populations will be prioritized.</td>
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<td>Education</td>
<td>Recent data shows 70% of Sonoma County youth are feeling anxious about the future. For 2021, education funding will focus on organizations whose <strong>primary objective is to support youth mental health</strong>, with a clear emphasis on LGBTQ+, BIPOC, and low-income youth.</td>
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<td>Arts and Culture</td>
<td>The COVID pandemic has decimated arts and culture organizations. Arts &amp; Culture funding in 2021 will focus on arts organizations that have been impacted by the pandemic and provide <strong>access to culturally diverse programming and audiences</strong>.</td>
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<td>Environment</td>
<td>In recent years, Sonoma County has experienced multiple environmental disasters. Funding will target <strong>disaster mitigation projects</strong> that seek to address the impacts of fires, floods, and other disasters.</td>
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*What criteria will you use to make your decisions?*
- The proposal aligns with the Community Grants funding priorities.
- The goals, implementation timeline, and staffing are clearly defined and achievable within the one-year grant period.
- The proposal increases access to a diverse sector of our community.
Do you prioritize organizations that are past grant recipients, or do you prefer to fund organizations that are new to Sonoma County Vintners Foundation?
We are interested in funding new organizations and innovative projects in our community, and we value the partnerships we have already created with many organizations; we do not prioritize one over the other. Please do keep in mind that being a former grantee does not guarantee future funding.

Do you prioritize programs that have a light touch with many people over in-depth programs that serve fewer individuals?
We prioritize programs that fully address the criteria and have the greatest possible impact on outcomes as defined in your application.

Funding

How will you distribute the funding among the four Program Areas? Across geographic regions?
We recognize that there are needs in all four Program Areas as outlined in our funding priorities. We will allocate a percentage of funds available in proportion to the number of applications received in each program area. Additionally, we strive to allocate funding equitably across the different geographic regions of our county.

What is the minimum and maximum amount of funding we can apply for?
The minimum grant request amount is $5,000; the maximum funding amount is $20,000.

What proportion of applicants received funding last year?
About half of last year’s applicants received funding. We encourage interested organizations to self-select by weighing their proposed project’s alignment with our criteria and funding priorities before beginning the application process.

Do you provide funding to sponsor events or scholarships?
No, the Community Grants program is not designated to sponsor events or fund scholarships.

Are public schools eligible to apply?
The Community Grants Education funding priority is intended to fund nonprofit organizations with a 501(c)(3) charitable designation only. We advise schools and educational institutions to apply through a nonprofit organization or education foundation for this grant program.

Is there a limit to the percentage of overhead that can be included in a project or program proposal?
There is not a specific limit to the percentage of administrative expenses that can be included in a proposal, however, we encourage you to select an amount that is reasonable to the project or program request.

If my nonprofit organization is based outside of Sonoma County, can I still apply for a grant?
Nonprofit organizations that have a significant presence in Sonoma County but are based outside of Sonoma County are eligible to apply.

How many applications can an organization submit? What if our organization has several departments that work independently?
In general, our priority is to provide broad community-wide support, and prefer only one proposal from any one nonprofit organization within a given grant cycle. However, if your organization is very large, with distinctly different programs, you may consider submitting more than one application.

Will it hurt my chances if I apply for the same program that I applied for last year?
We accept applications for the same project or program that you applied for last year. Generally speaking, if your application was declined it may indicate that the project or program was not a good fit for this funding.
Who reviews the grant applications?
The Sonoma County Vintners Foundation Grants Committee, in partnership with Community Foundation, reviews proposals and makes final funding decisions.

In the case that a grant is awarded, is there a deadline by which an organization must expend the funds?
The grant timeline for the 2021 Community Grants program is from June 1, 2021 to May 31, 2022. The funds must be expended within the grant year. We understand program timelines may change due to unforeseen circumstances; in this case, we ask the grantee to submit a Grant Modification Request Form as indicated in the grant contract.

Can I apply to both a Sonoma County Vintners Foundation Community Grant and a Community Foundation Sonoma County grant?
Yes. These grant programs are separate, and you may apply to both the Community Foundation and Sonoma County Vintners Foundation’s grant programs.