



2022 Community Grants Frequently Asked Questions

Funding Criteria and Priorities

What types of projects or programs are you prioritizing?

Sonoma County Vintners Foundation is pleased to continue our commitment to four key program areas: **Health and Human Services, Education, Environment, and Arts and Culture.**

Program Area	Funding Priority
Health and Human Services	<p>The increased stress of the pandemic has had a negative impact on the mental health and well-being of community members, with the greatest challenges faced by those already vulnerable due to multiple factors.</p> <p>Funding will target programs or projects that support the fundamental needs of our most vulnerable community members, which could include mental and behavioral health, housing, and food insecurity.</p>
Education	<p>In Sonoma County, data from the YouthTruth survey and READY report show that English Learners have been disproportionately impacted by wildfires and the pandemic in two key areas: digital access and access to early childhood education.</p> <p>Recognizing that high-quality early education and comprehensive digital access have lasting implications on literacy, the education funding for 2022 will target programs or projects that offer children, youth, and/or their families the opportunity to increase early literacy skills and/or address the digital divide.</p>
Arts and Culture	<p>The connection between the arts and healing has been well-documented. For a community that has experienced a series of natural disasters alongside a global pandemic, the arts can reduce acute levels of collective stress and uncertainty, transforming struggle into a creative expression of lived experience.</p> <p>For 2022, arts funding will target programs or projects that explore the arts and creative expression as a form of healing.</p>

<p>Environment</p>	<p>The existing and future threat of climate change-fueled wildfires means disaster mitigation continues to be critical for the safety of our community.</p> <p>Funding will target disaster mitigation projects that seek to address the impacts of wildfires primarily through the reduction of fire fuels. Approaches include—but are not limited to—prescribed grazing, prescribed burns, and manual vegetation management. Recognizing the opportunity to create a pathway for a trained, stable, well-compensated workforce that can conduct comprehensive wildfire mitigation, projects that provide opportunities for youth, BIPOC individuals, and others most impacted by economic, racial, and social inequities will be prioritized.</p>
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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 \$10,000.

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 the 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 designed to sponsor events or fund scholarships.

Are public schools eligible to apply?

Yes, provided there is a lead person associated with the grant and the project priorities align with the funding priorities.

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 to apply for the same program I applied for last year?

We accept applications for the same project or program 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.

If a grant is awarded, is there a deadline by which an organization must expend the funds?

The grant period for the 2022 Community Grants program is from June 1, 2022, to May 31, 2023. The funds must be expended within the grant year.

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.