



2023 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**. Please [visit our website for an overview](#) of the specific funding priority within each of these four areas.

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 award partial grants?

On occasion we do award partial grants, but we strive to fully fund requests as we know that it is difficult to deliver on your goals that you have outlined in your proposal with less funding than you have planned for.

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.

Can funding be applied to staff costs?

Yes, you can apply for funding for staff costs to run your program or project.

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. We recommend that you contact us before you proceed with submitting with 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.

We are working with a community partner organization that is also applying for a separate grant for a different project. Are we still eligible to apply?

As long as the two programs are different, you are eligible to apply.

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 2023 Community Grants program is from June 15, 2023, to June 14, 2024. 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.