

SONOMA VALLEY FUND GRANT FAQ

How can my organization receive a grant from the Sonoma Valley Fund of Community Foundation Sonoma County?

Our competitive grants are open to incorporated, charitable 501(c)(3) organizations serving Sonoma County. You may apply for a grant if your organization has a service or program that fits one of our fields of interest. All proposals are evaluated by our grants committee using our grant review criteria and compared with other applications.

Are there things that you do not fund?

We generally do not fund competitive grant applications for:

- Annual fund campaigns, fundraising events or debt retirement
- Capital campaigns
- Conferences or one-time events
- Grants (or loans) to individuals, except academic scholarships
- Grants to primary and secondary schools or to individual schools academic foundations
- Political or religious purposes (or programs requiring religious participation)
- Projects that primarily serve residents outside of Sonoma County
- Organizations that discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, citizenship, age, gender, sexual orientation, disability or any other characteristic protected by law.

Where do I start? Whom should I contact?

Begin by answering the following questions:

Is there a grantmaking program whose goals and criteria seem like a good match for my program?

Does the timing of the grant program fit with my funding needs?

Am I certain that none of my project expenditures are included in the items that the Sonoma Valley Fund does not fund?

If you answer “yes” to the above questions, you are ready to consider submitting an application. If you still have questions, please feel free to contact Community Foundation’s Vice President for Programs, Karin Demarest at 707.303.9621.

Are there specific forms I need and where do I get them?

All of our grant applications are submitted electronically. Please go to the Apply for Grants page to find the online application and accompanying forms for your field of interest. Read more [Frequently Asked Questions for Online Application Submission](#).

Is there a limit to the number of grants I can apply for in any given year?

You may apply to each program, as long as you meet the grant criteria. Generally, you may submit only one application per grant program per year. However, multi-service organizations (those that have distinct program departments serving different fields) may submit multiple applications.

If my organization receives a grant this year, may we apply for additional funding next year?

Yes, it is fine to reapply for additional years of support provided the grant goals and criteria still align with your program outcomes.

What does 501(c)(3) mean?

This refers to an Internal Revenue Service designation code that verifies that an organization is charitable, tax-exempt, and nonprofit. Sonoma Valley Fund's due diligence on grant applicants includes verifying 501(c)(3) status.

How and when will I know whether our proposal has been funded?

Our 2015 grantmaking criteria and timelines, including the dates when applicants will be notified if their proposals will be funded, will be posted on our website in the summer of 2015.

What is the Sonoma Valley Fund and from where does its grant money come?

Sonoma Valley Fund is an affiliate of Community Foundation Sonoma County. To read more about Community Foundation Sonoma County, visit their website.

Sonoma Valley Fund operates exclusively in the Valley, with board members and donors from our community and our own competitive grant making capabilities. Being an affiliate allows the Valley to benefit from the Community Foundation's broad resources, including their comprehensive investment program, professional staff services, grantmaking expertise, legal knowledge and administrative support, while at the same time bringing a decidedly local perspective to the priorities, the needs, and the connections critical to building a stronger community in our Valley.

Do I need to submit any legal or financial documents along with my application?

We routinely need your IRS employer ID number in order to verify your IRS charitable status.

Requesting financial information about your organization is a basic element in the review process of every funder. We try to keep our request to financial data that we know we need in order to make a funding decision.