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515.883.2626

2022 Strategic Collaboration Grants

The Community Foundation Strategic Collaboration grant program invests in the exploration and/or implementation of strategic alignment strategies between two or more organizations in order to address a community issue/opportunity, align operations/programming or deepen partnerships. Our goal is to support organizations interested in working collaboratively to become more effective and efficient in providing services and delivering community impact.

Examples of well-aligned Strategic Collaboration projects:

- Exploration and/or implementation of strategic alignment between organizations
- Collective planning/assessment among multiple partners seeking to address a community issue

Projects that may be a better fit for the Capacity Building grant program:

- Strategic planning and visioning for the nonprofit
- Succession and talent pipeline planning to ensure organizational leadership
- Financial scenario/business planning for stability
- Fund development/marketing strategy development (excluding feasibility studies)

Projects **not** eligible or competitive for the Strategic Collaboration grant program may be a better fit for our [GIVEdsm](#) platform. Examples might include:

- Ongoing annual operating and program expenses
- Capital infrastructure projects (bricks and mortar)
- Sectarian religious programs promoting a particular faith
- Tactical items such as hardware/equipment, collateral materials, donor management software or website development

Grant amounts: Applicants may apply for up to \$25,000.

Interested in applying? We recognize the time to explore collaboration with another organization does not happen on a prescribed timeline. We welcome the opportunity to discuss possibilities with you. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis; decisions are communicated in approximately 10 business days.

Please reach out to Trisha Hayes, hayes@desmoinesfoundation.org to schedule a meeting with a member of the Community Impact team and to obtain login credentials for Manage My Grant (our online application portal) and [GIVEdsm](#).

Strategic Collaboration Grant application questions:

- Project title
- Organization information (EIN, address, website)
- Contact information for Executive Director/CEO and Grant Contact

Budget information:

- Funding request amount
- Total project budget
- Organizations' total annual budget
- If the request is partially funded with a Strategic Collaboration grant, will the project continue?

Project information:

- Provide an overview of the organizations exploring collaboration or strategic alignment, including mission statements and future goals.
- State the need for collaboration exploration and how it will be addressed with the grant funds.
- Share the anticipated timeline for the project.
- Please share any additional stakeholders you anticipate will engage in the project.
- Do the organizations plan to work with a consultant? If yes, please upload a detailed work plan submitted by the consultant after this application is submitted that includes the hourly rate for the consultant, estimated hours for the project and deliverables.

Required documents:

- Project budget detailing other sources of funding including your organization's and/or board's financial commitment and the amount requested from the Community Foundation.
- List of each organization's Board of Directors.
- Consultant work plan (if applicable).

Grant requirements:

- Grantees must complete an online grant agreement to release funding.
- An evaluation is due within one year of the grant award, including project deliverables and budgetary documentation.

For more information on the Strategic Collaboration Grant process, please contact:

Ellie Burns, Director of Nonprofit Relations | burns@desmoinesfoundation.org or (515) 883-2629