



## **Bush Prize: South Dakota Application Questions and FAQs 2023**

Applications will open in May 2023

*This document covers the topics listed below. To apply or find additional information, please visit <https://www.sdcommunityfoundation.org/grants/bush-prize-south-dakota>*

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## Overview of the Bush Prize: South Dakota

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The South Dakota Community Foundation is partnering with the Bush Foundation to select the 2023 Bush Prize: South Dakota winner. The Bush Prize celebrates organizations with a track record of successful community problem solving. Bush Prize winners are extraordinary not only in what they do, but in how they do it. They work inclusively, in partnership with others, to make our region better for everyone.

Bush Prize: South Dakota grants are flexible and can be used to build up reserves or test that next big idea or whatever else would best support the organization's ongoing good work. Winners receive a package of recognition, including a flexible grant of 25 percent of the organization's last fiscal year expenses, up to \$500,000.

The South Dakota Community Foundation will select and announce the Bush Prize winner for South Dakota, as well as provide any support along the way.

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## Eligibility and Selection Criteria

### Eligibility

1. Bush Prize grants must be used for a charitable purpose.
2. Organizations that are 501(c)(3) public charities or government entities (including schools) are eligible for the Bush Prize: South Dakota. Groups of organizations (such as coalitions or collaboratives) are eligible to apply, but only one organization may receive the grant.
3. SDCF accepts Bush Prize: South Dakota applications from fiscal sponsors. The fiscal sponsor organization must submit the grant application and, if the grant is approved, becomes the grantee and receives the funds.
4. Bush Prize: South Dakota winners must be located in South Dakota or one of the [9 Native nations](#) that share the same geography. The specific community innovations highlighted in the Bush Prize application must also have occurred within that geography.
5. Organizations that have received a Bush Prize in the last 10 years are not eligible to apply.

### Selection Criteria

1. Does the organization have a pattern of innovative solutions?
  - Are these breakthroughs in addressing community needs more effective, equitable or sustainable than existing approaches?
  - Did these innovative solutions make a significant difference?
  - Could the organization inspire or inform others?
2. Does the organization have a pattern of using inclusive, collaborative and resourceful processes?
  - Inclusive: meaningfully engaging key stakeholders, thoughtfully identifying those needed to create the intended change and, whenever possible,

- including those directly affected by the problem.
  - Collaborative: a true joint effort, with partners willing to share ownership and decision-making as they pursue an innovation together.
  - Resourceful: using existing resources and assets creatively to make the most of what a community already has.
3. Does the organizational leadership foster a culture of innovation?
- Is the organization stable and strong in terms of governance and finance?

### **Additional Considerations**

Over time we seek a portfolio of Bush Prize: South Dakota winners that represents the full diversity of this region and includes a variety of:

- Applicant organization sizes
- Communities served (both in terms of size and demographics)
- Types of issues addressed

We also seek representation of community-led organizations—organizations that are led by people who come from the communities they serve.

## **How to Apply**

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**Applications for the Bush Prize: South Dakota will open in May 2023.** Our online application system will automatically open the opportunity to apply for the Bush Prize: South Dakota in May. Please refer to our website for application opening and due dates and times. If applying online presents a barrier for you, please let us know - we'd be happy to help.

Once you've started an application in our online system, you can save it and return later to continue working. To return to an in-progress application, login to our online system using the username and password you created when you started your account.

Application questions for the Bush Prize: South Dakota are provided below as a reference.

### **Applicant Organization**

All the information provided in this section should be for a single Applicant Organization. If working with a Fiscal Sponsor, the Fiscal Sponsor is the Applicant Organization.

#### *Organization/Contact Information*

- Applicant Organization name, organization legal name (*if different*), address, city, state, zip, phone, website, Employer Identification Number
- Application Primary Contact Information first name, last name, title, phone, email, address, city, state, zip

#### *Organization Questions*

- Is your organization certified by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) public charity? (Y/N)

- Is your organization a public agency/unit of government or Indian tribal government under Section 7871 of the Internal Revenue Code? (Y/N)
- What is your most recent fiscal year total expenses? (select one from the list below)  
*The most recent fiscal year total expenses should reflect the applicant organization. For example, if the applicant organization is a university, select the total expenses of the university (not a department or program within the university). Also, if you are applying using a fiscal sponsorship arrangement, you should select the total expenses of the fiscal sponsor (not the sponsored project).*
  - Up to \$49,999
  - \$50,000 - \$99,999
  - \$100,000 - \$249,999
  - \$250,000 - \$499,999
  - \$500,000 - \$999,999
  - \$1M - \$4,999,999
  - \$5M +
- What issue area does your organization address? (Select up to three. The options below are from the National Taxonomy of Exempt Entities.)
  - Arts, Culture and Humanities
  - Education
  - Environment
  - Health
  - Human Services
  - Other
  - Public and Societal Benefit
- What best describes the community served by your organization? (Select one.)
  - Rural
  - Town or City – population under 50,000
  - Town or City – population over 50,000
  - Combination: Rural/Town/City

### **Fiscal Sponsored Project (if applicable)**

If you are applying using a fiscal sponsor arrangement, this section applies to you. The information below should be about the organization that is being sponsored, not the applicant. In addition, a signed fiscal sponsorship agreement is required for all applicants using a fiscal sponsorship arrangement. Please upload your signed agreement at the bottom of this page.

*If you are not applying using a fiscal sponsorship arrangement, there is no need to complete this section. Most organizations do not use a fiscal sponsorship arrangement. Click “Save & Next” at the bottom of the page to go to the next section.*

## Narrative Questions

1. In 3,000 characters or less (approximately 500 words), provide a brief introduction to:
  - Your organization, its history, and its mission. *If you're applying as a fiscal sponsor, please briefly describe both your organization and the group you're sponsoring.*
  - Your community. What do we need to understand about your community or context to better understand the work highlighted in your proposal?
2. The Bush Prize is for organizations that have a culture of innovation. What principles and practices allow your organization to innovate? Provide examples of what this looks like in your organization on a day-to-day basis. (Maximum of 3,000 characters. Approximately 500 words.)
3. How does the leadership of your organization support innovation? (Maximum of 3,000 characters. Approximately 500 words.)
4. Describe your organization's track record of innovation. Provide at least two examples of times when you have achieved a community innovation (a breakthrough in addressing a community need that is more effective, equitable, and sustainable than previous approaches). Include outcome data or other evidence of the impact of your breakthroughs. If you are selected as a Bush Prize: South Dakota Finalist, we will ask you to elaborate on these innovations. (Maximum of 4,500 characters. Approximately 750 words.)
5. When you identify a community problem, how do you typically pursue an innovative solution to the problem? Describe specific examples of how your approach is inclusive, collaborative and resourceful according to the Bush Prize: South Dakota criteria. (Maximum of 3,000 characters. Approximately 500 words.)
6. What sets your organization apart in your field? How is your approach different from the status quo? How are you trying to inform and inspire your field with your work? (Maximum of 1,500 characters. Approximately 250 words.)
7. The Bush Prize: South Dakota is for organizations that think bigger and think differently about how they address community problems. What is your big dream for the future of your organization and its work? What are you doing now to work towards that dream? (Maximum of 1,500 characters. Approximately 250 words.)

## Selection Process and Timeline

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**The deadline for Bush Prize: South Dakota applications is Wednesday, May 31st at noon Central Time.**

**Initial Review.** SDCF Grants Team will conduct an initial review of applications and select finalists. We will let you know in July whether your application is moving forward.

**Finalist Review.** SDCF Grants Team will conduct site visits and review references in July and August.

A panel of community leaders will review and recommend Bush Prize: South Dakota winners from the South Dakota applicant pool.

It is important to us that our processes are fair. If any of our selection committee members have a conflict of interest with an organization being considered for the Bush Prize: South Dakota, they will not be a part of any selection discussion or decisions for that year. SDCF defines “conflict of interest” as being a staff or board member of or having a contractual relationship with an organization.

We will let finalists know in early October whether they have been selected as a 2023 Bush Prize: South Dakota winner.

All selections are based on program eligibility requirements and criteria.

## Frequently Asked Questions

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### *Applying for the Bush Prize: South Dakota*

- **How do I submit my application?**

SDCF uses an online application system. To start an application, please use an existing login or create a new username and password in our online grant portal eGrant. Once you've started your application, it can be saved for you to revisit and finish at any time during the open application period.

If applying online presents a barrier for you, let us know.

- **If I am having trouble completing my application online, what do I do?**

- First, try to address the following common issues:
- To continue working on an in-progress application, login to the online application program using the username and password you used to create your account.
- The application will not submit if the required questions are not answered. You may have to scroll up to see the questions that you missed.
- We recommend using Chrome or Firefox to access your application.

We encourage you to begin your application in the online system as early as possible in the application period so that we will have time to offer you more support. For additional technical support, please contact our office at 605-224-1025 and ask to speak with the Grants team.

### *Understanding the Bush Prize: South Dakota Program*

- **What if the proposed work is a collaborative effort? How do we determine which organizations will be publicly acknowledged and which organizations will receive the grant?**

We will only provide a grant to one entity but will happily credit multiple organizations publicly, if that is your preference. The primary applicant organization will be the grant recipient.

- **How much funding comes with a Bush Prize?**

Each Bush Prize: South Dakota winner is awarded a grant of 25% of the organization's most recent fiscal year expenses, up to \$500,000. You can select which budget you want us to consider for the grant. It could be a smaller program budget within an organization or an organization's larger budget. However, please note that whatever budget you select will also determine which part of the organization we review with the Bush Prize: South Dakota criteria. That means that while an entire organization's budget may mean a larger grant, it also means that the entire organization will be reviewed with the criteria. In some cases, you might feel that a department or program within an organization will better

demonstrate the criteria.

If you are selected as a finalist, we'll work with you to submit the appropriate budget.

- **What can Bush Prize: South Dakota winners do with the grant money?**  
The Bush Prize: South Dakota grants are flexible and can be used to advance the charitable purpose of the organization. Funds must be used in South Dakota or the 23 Native nations. Bush Prize: South Dakota winners will report publicly on the use of their funds.
- **If my organization is not awarded a Bush Prize: South Dakota, can I get feedback about our application?**  
We believe that learning is an important part of this process and offer a limited number of feedback calls to applicants (on a first-come, first-served basis) after we make final decisions. We see these conversations as a valuable way for us to receive your feedback as well.

## Questions

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*Not finding an answer to your question? We're happy to help.*

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