

Miller Area Foundation

Miller Area Foundation

Watts Office Building
103 West 3rd Avenue
Miller, South Dakota 57362

Dear Applicant:

This letter is being added to your packet to help you understand the methods that the Board of Directors uses when awarding grant funds.

The Miller Area Foundation (Foundation) offers grants to organizations who are not of governmental nature. Governmental agencies include school districts, water districts, sanitation district, municipalities, counties, townships or any of their subdivisions.

The Foundation does, however, recognize that there are independent organizations, which exist within the framework of government, which are not government programs. An example of this includes student organizations, firefighter associations, library associations, athletic boosters and many more.

The Foundation seeks to support volunteer efforts whenever possible and has to scrutinize applications which appear more governmental than independent or voluntary in nature. Preference will go to non-governmental agencies above all others.

The Foundation also has a “bricks and mortar” guideline, which does not allow for grant funding of improvements to buildings, grounds and utilities. Our mission is support programming, not construction or remodeling efforts.

The Foundation also recognizes that some independent organizations receive funds from the various government agencies. Partnerships with government agencies are allowable so long as the primary source of funding for the organization is not by virtue of its governmental authority.

The Foundation Board of Directors feels that it is important that the grant funds issued by the Foundation result in purchases which stay with the agency or provide services that reach the desired target population. We discourage spending that provides assets for governmental agencies. It is our hope that the recipient will retain and maintain the any property purchased with grant proceeds.

If you have any questions, you may contact any of the Miller Area Foundation Board of Directors.

Effective: March 1, 2007
Revised: May 20, 2008 (address and directors)
July 13, 2010 (updated directors)

Board of Directors

Rob Mullaney, Sandy Werdel, Nini Hart, Dan Coss, Chris Keeter, Dawn Joy, and Joe Fiala

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Application Guidelines

Revised: June 5, 2005
May 20, 2008 (updated address & directors)
July 13, 2010 (updated directors)

1. Volunteerism

Projects operated without an accountable, legal entry will not be considered, as availability and continuity of “accountable” personnel are necessary to establish grant administration.

Projects that have a paid staff but involve significant and continuous community volunteer assistance to enhance their existing programs will be favorably considered.

2. Discrimination

While proposals from organizations offering services exclusively to one gender, age group or race will be closely scrutinized for discriminatory practices, they will be considered for funding based on the need and potential of the project activities to the need.

3. Innovation

The Miller Area Foundation funds ongoing well established programs, as well as innovative projects to solve new problems or address existing problems in innovative ways.

4. Fund Distribution

The Miller Area Foundation Board of Directors will make funding decisions.

5. Operating Expense for Public Services

No Miller Area Foundation funds will be used to subsidize operating expenses for public service agencies.

6. Project Longevity

The Miller Area Foundation encourages projects with an ongoing life, recognize that there are worthy projects that begin and end the same calendar year.

7. Research

The Miller Area Foundation encourages economic development and academic research. Projects will be reviewed based upon their merit.

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8. Seed Grants

Application requesting start-up money must provide feasibility data to indicate the potential for successful operation within a reasonable amount of time. Only those ideas having a likelihood of success in our area will be funded.

9. Capital Improvement

Due to the limited amount of annual discretionary funds and the rising costs of building and remodeling, capital “bricks and mortar” projects will generally not be funded. Unless the applicant can show a direct and essential linkage of the major equipment purchase and the project objectives, the Miller Area Foundation will generally not fund endowments. Generally local-matching funds should support this type of investment.

10. Technical Assistance

Consultants and technical assistance will be included in grant awards when they are integrally related to the accomplishment of the grant objectives.

11. Loans

The Miller Area Foundation will not issue funds on repayment basis.

12. Minimum Awards

Grant applications will be considered for amount of \$500 or more per project. Exceptions to this amount will be considered based upon the merit of the application project.

13. Multi-year funding

Only proposals for one year will be considered by the Miller Area Foundation Board of Directors. If projects require more than one year to accomplish their objectives, they should submit a letter with the first year application indicating their intent to request additional funding in the next year(s). No guarantee of continued funding will be communicated until subsequent grant applications are reviewed. Once indicated under the Miller Area Foundation funding, projects with good track records should be considered favorably in subsequent decisions. No more than three years of sequential grant funding shall be awarded to any one grantee for the same purpose.

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14. Challenge of Matching Grants

The Miller Area Foundation encourages matching funds from all grant applicants. When the Board of Directors perceives the need for more local involvement and support of a given project in order to establish ownership in the community, it may require challenge grants in any proportion. Funding may be contingent upon acquisition of the required matching funds. There may be times when the Miller Area Foundation perceives a need is not being met, may issue a challenge grant to participate in a challenge grant to address that need.

15. Applicant Stability

The Board of Directors should establish a balance of new and well-established agencies to support with neither predominating. Regardless of duration, ability to be accountable for Miller Area Foundation grant funds will be the determining factor.

16. Public or Private

The Board of Directors should concentrate on funding private non-profit agencies or organizations, but not to the exclusion of public agencies with meet grant guidelines.

17. Partnerships

Partnership applications from two or more solid agencies or institutions will be considered and encouraged if their proposals all within the mission and guidelines of the Miller Area Foundation. However, principle accountability must be established with one agency for communication purposes.

18. Exceptions

The Board of Directors may make an exception to any printed policy or guideline upon motion duly made, seconded and passed by 2/3 vote of those directors present and voting. Motion must state the rationale for the exception. Exceptions taken in one instance do not necessarily constitute precedent exceptions for future grant decisions.

19. Grant Review Process

The Board of Directors should eliminate those proposals that do not meet the mission of the Miller Area Foundation, or clearly do not qualify. The Board of Directors should meet no less than yearly to consider grant proposals that meet minimum qualifications. Those directors who perceive themselves to have a conflict of interest should abstain from voting on those proposals but are encouraged to offer comment on the project.

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20. Communications with Applicants

The Board of Directors shall promptly acknowledge receipt of the various applications. Those applicants whose proposals are approved or rejected shall be informed in writing within two weeks of approval. The Board of Directors shall have the total responsibility to publicly announce the recipients of the yearly grants.

21. Post Grant Monitoring

A final report based upon project objectives and budget usage will be required of each grantee. Each funded project shall be informed in writing of its obligation to notify the Miller Area Foundation of major changes in status, organization or project implementation. When informed of such changes the Miller Area Foundation may require a site visit to monitor progress, determine difficulties and provide consultation regarding accomplishment of project objectives. Continued funding may be reviewed based upon finds from the site visit that shall be communicated in writing to the Board of Directors as soon as possible.

22. Reapplication

Multiple or repeat proposals from one organization in less than a 12 month period are discouraged.

23. Emergency Funding

Up to \$500 may be granted to a qualifying agency for emergency purposes upon unanimous vote of the Board of Directors.

MISSION STATEMENT & STATEMENT OF INTENT

The mission of the Miller Area Foundation is to receive and administer charitable gifts creating a permanent endowment to assist a wide range of programs to qualified non-profit organizations, institutions or agencies to promote the social and economic well-being of the people of the Miller and surrounding area.

It is the further intent of the Miller Area Foundation to provide the opportunity for any individuals, corporations and estates to return to their community of that which was given to them.

It is our intent to continually raise endowment funds so that the earnings may be distributed to the Miller Area Foundation for economic development, human services, education, cultural and environmental enhancement.

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