

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

This document will be updated as additional questions are asked by applicants to the SCT initiative. If you have a question, email us at SCT@propelnonprofits.org

Q: Who is funding this initiative?

A: This initiative is being funded by Bush Foundation, Ford Foundation, Jerome Foundation, and The McKnight Foundation.

Eligibility:

Q: Who is this eligible for this application period?

A: This round of the SCT initiative is providing funds and technical assistance for 501(c)(3) organizations, fiscally sponsored organizations, and/or units of tribal government in Minnesota and/or the 11 Tribal Nations within its border.

Q: Can these funds be used to hire a BIPOC staff member to remove the need for an unpaid BIPOC staff member?

A: The funds are general operating funds, so there is no stipulation for what they can be used for. Your organization would just need to meet the eligibility criteria.

Q: How stringent are the eligibility requirements for the operating budget? What if an organization fits the other criteria but has an operating budget over \$500,000?

A: Per our discussions with the Design Team that helped to create the criteria, arts and culture groups with operating budgets less than \$500,000, whose main focus is art and culture, have fewer opportunities to qualify for funding. That is where we are focusing to try to address that need.

Q: Would funds that we use to regrant to our communities be included in a nonprofit definition of operating budget? I've seen this both ways...

A: Because those funds could either be seen as part of program expenses or separated out as grants, we recommend you apply for this opportunity if you meet the other eligibility criteria.

Q: Are past/current grantees eligible to apply?

A: Those organizations that have been selected as an America's Cultural Treasure or Regional Cultural Treasure are not eligible to apply.

Q: If our fiscal sponsor has received a Cultural Treasures grant, does that disqualify us?

A: No. If you did not receive a grant in one of the prior programs, you are eligible to apply even if your fiscal sponsor is a recipient.

Process:

Q: How many awards will be given? What is the total amount of funds to be awarded?

A: We are planning to award between 20 – 35 grants, with a total of \$2 million being distributed in this first round of grants in Minnesota and the 11 Tribal Nations within its border.

Q: Can the \$100,000 be used within any time span over the 3.5 years?

A: Propel will be working with the organizations to determine how they would like to receive the grant. The only expectation is the organization will continue to be actively involved in the cohort for the entire period regardless of how they elect to receive the funding.

Q: In terms of the number of dollars requested, is it an all or nothing? Will there be partial funding?

A: This is still being discussed by the Selection Committee. At this time, we are encouraging organizations to ask for the amount they need when they complete the application.

Q: Will everyone submitting an application be scheduled for interview, or is it a selection of applicants only?

A: Only those selected as finalists will be scheduled for an interview.

Q: When will winners be notified?

A: We will be notifying those selected for the cohort between July 14 – 20, with the public announcement date being July 21.

Fiscal Sponsorship:

Q: I am interested in fiscal sponsorship. Can you help me in that process?

A: Propel and Springboard for the Arts are two organizations you could engage with for fiscal sponsorship. If you want to learn more about fiscal sponsorship, click here.

<https://www.propelnonprofits.org/resources/fiscal-sponsorship-video/>. If want to learn more specific details about fiscal sponsorship with Propel, Propel holds information sessions, which you can [register for here](#). If you are interested in Springboard for the Arts' Incubator program, you can [find more information here](#), including office hours. You are welcome to engage other fiscal sponsors as well.

Q: How is Propel supporting organizations that are not 501(c)(3) organizations or currently fiscally sponsored?

A: At this time, based on IRS tax laws, grants must be made within specific guidelines for a charitable purpose, and currently the means to do this is through 501(c)(3) organizations. Propel is committed to continue to learn and engage with other intermediaries and philanthropic organizations on this topic. Propel will work to identify:

- Organizations that are fiscal sponsors that can work with those seeking grants who are not a 501(c)(3) organization.
- Organizations that want to be fiscal sponsors to help them in that process.
- Organizations that are intermediaries that Propel can partner with to get funding into their networks.