



Southwest Minnesota Arts Council

www.swmnarts.org • 507-537-1471 • info@swmnarts.org

Serving Big Stone, Chippewa, Cottonwood, Jackson, Kandiyohi, Lac qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, McLeod, Meeker, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Renville, Rock, Swift & Yellow Medicine counties

EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Fiscal Year 2021 Guidelines

Effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

The grants described in this guide are dependent on appropriations to the SW MN Arts Council from the State of Minnesota's arts & cultural heritage fund.

Deadlines: submitted online by 4:30 pm

Round I deadline: February 10, 2021

Earliest project start date: April 1, 2021

The start date for a SMAC grant is defined as the point at which the project is set in motion (e.g. auditions, rehearsals, advertising and public notification, payment of fees, ordering and/or paying for supplies or printed material, etc.). **No funds can be expended prior to the project start date.** Funds spent before the project start date, such as a deposit on a contract, cannot be included in the grant project budget. **No advertising by the applicant organization can take place before the start date**, whether or not it will be paid for through the grant. However, posting basic information such as event dates is allowed. **Projects must be concluded no later than June 30, 2022.**

Program Intent & Eligibility

The intent of the Equipment & Facilities Improvement grant program is to provide funding for organizations whose mission is focused primarily on the arts for the purchase of equipment items and facilities improvements that will strengthen the arts organization's capacity to serve the arts need of the region. Requests for equipment will be accepted from non-arts organizations if the case can be made that the main purpose is to support community arts projects.

Applicant organizations must be located within the eighteen counties of the SMAC service region (*Big Stone, Chippewa, Cottonwood, Jackson, Kandiyohi, Lac qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, McLeod, Meeker, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Renville, Rock, Swift, and Yellow Medicine counties*) or on tribal lands within our service area. We acknowledge that this region occupies the traditional, ancestral, and contemporary lands of the Dakota people, who have stewarded these lands throughout the generations.

See restrictions in SMAC's general grant guidelines.

Before beginning an application, you are strongly encouraged to contact SW MN Arts Council to determine if this grant program is appropriate for your project.

Grant Amounts

Equipment & Facilities Improvement grants are available for up to **\$10,000**. In fiscal year 2021, no cash match is required.

Funds received through this grant program are capped at \$50,000 per organization within a 10-year timeframe. Applicants can only receive up to \$50,000 for equipment & facilities improvement within a decade.

If you have received a SMAC Operating Support grant, you may not include pro-rated general operating costs in the budget for any other SMAC grant program (such as this EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT grant program) that occurs during the same time period as the Operating Support Grant.

Fiscal Sponsors

The Equipment & Facilities Improvement grant program is open to nonprofit organizations as described in Section 501 (c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code with Articles of Incorporation on file with the State of Minnesota or official units of city, county, or state government of the State of Minnesota. Any formal organization not meeting this requirement may apply through a fiscal sponsor.

A fiscal sponsor is an organization meeting the requirements listed above. A signed agreement spelling out the relationship between the applicant and the fiscal sponsor must be submitted with the application. A fiscal sponsor, if used, must sign the application and, if funded, sign the Grant Contract. The fiscal sponsor is legally responsible for the completion of the project and for the proper management of grant funds.

Review Criteria

The grant review panel will score your application based on:

- the impact of the project on the organization (53%)
- the merit of the organization and the artistic quality of its programs (32%)
- the feasibility of the project (15%)

Applicants will also be awarded one additional percentage point for each of the following criteria they meet:

- First time SMAC applicant
- Applicant organization led by or primarily serving BIPOC or LGBTQIA2S+ communities or people with disabilities
- Applicant from a county that has received three or fewer SMAC grants in the last fiscal year

The panel's evaluation scoresheet is available on the SMAC website. Read more about the grant review process in the SMAC's general grant guidelines.