

## Southland Economic Transformation “SET” Fund Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Who is Eligible to Apply?

The South Suburban Economic Growth Initiative is looking for widespread participation in this grant opportunity, and to that end, the eligibility requirements are fairly broad. Any person or organization proposing a project which furthers the strategies of the South Suburban Economic Growth Initiative may apply for SET grants, provided they adhere to the following requirements:

- The proposed project must serve SSEGI’s charitable purposes of [inclusive economic growth](#) in the Southland;
- The applicant must be a 501(c)(3) organization OR an entity eligible for fiscal sponsorship by an organization;
- The applicant must not discriminate against any person or group of people in either hiring/employment practices or in the administration of programs and services, including on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

#### a. Can an individual municipality/group of municipalities apply?

Yes, municipalities may apply either individually or as a collaborative.

#### b. Can a private citizen apply?

Yes, anyone with a proposal that furthers inclusive economic growth and quality of life (by directly driving economic development) in the Southland is encouraged to submit. Preference will be given to proposals which identify and develop the assets of the Southland towards increasing their productivity and prosperity as part of realizing the overall strategies of SSEGI to create vital and prosperous communities of opportunity and choice (as described in the [Phase 1 Report](#)).

#### c. Can a faith-based institution apply?

Yes, a church or other faith-based institution may apply, but must agree that the grant will not be used specifically for religious instruction (see Section 2b of SET Rules and Regulations for further details).

#### d. Can a for-profit business apply?

Yes, for-profit businesses may apply. For their proposal to be considered, it would need to fulfill the charitable purpose of inclusive economic growth for the Southland.

#### e. Can \_\_\_\_\_ apply?

If you have a unique circumstance that needs individual clarification, please reach out to us at [grants@ssegi.com](mailto:grants@ssegi.com) and we will address your concern promptly.

### 2. What are the geographic requirements?

The applicant is not required to have a physical address in the South Suburbs, but preference will be given to those LOIs that include partners in the Southland. For all applicants, the focus and impact of the project **must** be within the Southland.

- a. **Can a portion of the project lie outside the Southland?**  
Yes, but preference will be given to proposals whose focus lies entirely within the Southland geography.
3. **Can a person/entity apply more than once?**  
Yes, applicants may submit multiple applications for different projects.
4. **Are there any restrictions on this grant for projects that already have other funders?**  
No, we recognize that large projects or initiatives may already have received grants for certain components. The specific component of the project submitted to the SET Fund, however, should not already be funded by other organizations.
5. **What is the maximum grant amount allowable?**  
Grant sizes will vary considerably, depending on the needs and stage of the projects proposed. The maximum potential grant amount will be approximately \$100,000.
6. **How many grants will be awarded?**  
We anticipate awarding approximately eight (8) grants from the \$400,000 pool for each awardee to develop full business or operations plans, although in some cases projects may be further along, and use the grant funding to move into the implementation phase. SSMMA and SSEGI reserves the right to make more or fewer grants, and in any dollar amounts. There is a possibility that additional funds will be raised.
7. **How will the LOIs be evaluated/what happens once an LOI is submitted?**  
LOIs will undergo a multistage review process by members of the Civic Working Groups (“CWGs”), staff, and the SET Grant Committee.
8. **Do proposals have to address the priority areas and populations listed in the grant announcement – or if they demonstrate another area of need is that ok?**  
Proposals demonstrating another area of need that do not necessarily strictly align with the SSEGI priority areas and populations listed in the grant announcement are eligible to submit, but applicants with projects fitting this description should know that those areas and populations are key scoring criteria in the review process.
9. **What resources are available to better understand the grant goals?**  
You should familiarize yourself with these key documents on the SSEGI website as a starting point.
  - a. Selection Criteria on pages 2-4 of [SET Funding Announcement](#)
  - b. [SSEGI Phase I Executive Summary](#)
  - c. Sections of the [SSEGI Phase I Full Report](#) relevant to your proposal
  - d. Browse through the remaining work on <http://ssegi.com/our-work>.
10. **Are there any requirements or restrictions on use of funds?**  
You must agree that if you receive a grant, it will be used only for eligible charitable purposes, including that it will not be used for religious instruction (see Section 2B of the [SET Rules & Regulations](#) document)

**11. How do I submit an application?**

Letters of Interest not to exceed 3 pages are due by 5pm CST on March 9, 2020. Please email them as Word or PDF documents to [grants@ssegi.com](mailto:grants@ssegi.com).

**12. What constitutes a conflict of interest? If I have a conflict at any of these levels of evaluation, am I still eligible to apply?**

Conflicts of interest do not affect eligibility. However, all conflicts must be disclosed.

**13. When will decisions be made?**

We anticipate the following timeline:

- February 10, 2020 – Release of RFP
- March 9, 2020 – LOIs due (not to exceed three (3) pages)
- March 2020 – LOI curation and review process
- April 6, 2020 – Finalists selected to move to full proposal stage
- May 4, 2020 – Full proposals due
- June 1, 2020 – Grantee Selection Announcement