

Creative Community Solutions Guidelines Overview

Thank you for your interest in the unique Creative Community Solutions grant program. We are excited to have a brief conversation with you to learn more about your specific problem and your innovative solution. An innovative solution can most-easily be defined as a community-based solution, where an organization or group of organizations are collaborating across their community to solve problems identified. Most often, these groups are working against the status quo - meaning they are developing or testing new partnerships, strategies, or approaches than have typically been attempted in the past.

Please remember that at Strengthen ND, we take our commitment of fund stewardship to the Bush Foundation very seriously. The Bush Foundation's overall goal is to build the problem-solving capacity across North Dakota and the Native Nations sharing its geography. Therefore, our Grantmaking Committee is directed to pay specific attention to the proposed problem-solving processes of applicants and does not favor one particular issue over another. Creative Community Solutions funds the most promising ideas, across issue areas, that have the potential to make our state better for everyone. Through this program, we aim to develop, test, and spread great ideas.

Below are definitive guidelines for the program and for an application. These need to be read and adhered to for a successful introductory call and the submission of an acceptable application.

- We have comprehensive information on this unique opportunity on our website (www.strengthennd.com). Before you have the initial brief conversation with us, you are asked to read through this information, and come prepared to discuss your specific problem and your innovative solution with us.

- This unique grantmaking program is an opportunity to address a problem with a new and different idea. It is not for general operating support or to expand an existing program. We cannot provide operating support grants for existing programs and services or the expansion of existing programs. This opportunity is for a new solution.

- Our process includes a ½ hour introductory call to learn of your problem and your new solution. If an application is submitted, there will be a due diligence follow-up call to address additional information through a set list of questions asked of all applicants. Your responses will be documented and sent, along with your proposal, to our Grantmaking Committee - that determines the award decisions. Due diligence calls are important; when you schedule one, please make sure to attend to have your information documented for the Grantmaking Committee.

- Application requirements include:
 - A maximum two-page proposal or 3- to 5-minute video. Only two pages will be sent to the Grantmaking Committee and videos in excess of 5-minutes will be edited down. No attachments will be accepted.
 - The written proposal must be in 12 point type.
 - Indicate your problem; your new, innovative solution; and where you are at in the process of innovation: developing, testing, or ready to spread.
 - Our annual deadlines are April 30 and September 30. Proposals must be received by midnight on those dates.
 - No introductory calls will be held the week before the deadline.

We look forward to speaking with you about your problem and innovative solution. We have seen and supported many exciting projects that are attempting new solutions to existing problems.