



Seeds of Strength

2025-2026 Grant Application Four Step Process (8/20/2025)

KEY ACTIONS AND DATES FOR THE 2025-2026 GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS:

- Grant Application Process Begins for 2026 Awards: August 29, 2025
 - Grant Process Information Session: Tuesday, September 9, 2025
 - Request Dropbox File Folder for Documents Submission from 9/29/25 and 11/7/25
 - Grant Application Submission Deadline: Friday, November 14, 2025, at 5 pm
 - Notification to Finalists: March 23, 2026
 - Notification to Grant Recipients: early May, 2026
 - Grant Awards Event: mid-May 2026
 - Grant Execution Year: 7/1/2026 – 6/30/2027
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Seeds of Strength has a Four-Step Grant Application Process

Step 1: Grant Application Announcement and Information Session

- Prospective grant applicants are encouraged to attend our Grant Process Information Session. At this session we will focus on the specifics of the grant application process. All potential applicants, whether they have applied previously, are encouraged to attend to ensure they are aware of all current guidelines, requirements, and submission deadlines.

GRANT PROCESS

INFORMATION SESSION

VIRTUAL: ZOOM MEETING

Tuesday, September 9, 2025 from 1:00-3:00 pm

RSVP is required please email grants@seedsofstrength.org to register. Please visit www.seedsofstrength.org for more details and to download grant application materials prior to the session.

STEP 2: Program Grant Application

- Before completing the application, organizations should carefully review the following documents to ensure all criteria and documentation can be met. Documents are available on the Seeds of Strength website: www.seedsofstrength.org, “Our Grants”, “Apply for a Grant”.
 - Eligibility Requirements and Funding Priorities
 - Areas of Interest
 - Four Step Grant Application Process
 - Grant Application Template
 - Grant Application Guidelines
 - Program Budget Template

- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- S.M.A.R.T Grant Applications
- Organizations are allowed to submit only one application per year and must select one Area of Interest when completing the application. Additional information is provided in ***Areas of Interest*** document.
- In addition to the Grant Application, required documents include, but are not limited to:
 - IRS 501(c)(3) Determination Letter
 - Board Member List
 - Collaborator Agreement (if applicable)
 - IRS Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-N(e-Postcard)
 - Proposed Program Budget
 - Financial audit documents
 - Key Staff Listing
 - Budget/Financial Information
 - Program Executive Summary
- For 2025, SoS will use Dropbox to receive all applicant documents. **Each organization should request a Dropbox file folder from 9/29/25-11/7/25.** This will ensure it is available for timely submissions by Friday ,November 14, 2025. Request a Dropbox folder at grants@seedsofstrength.org.
- The Grant Application and supporting attachments must be submitted following directions on the Grant Application template **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, November 14, 2025, AT 5:00 p.m.** All documentation will be submitted through an assigned Dropbox file folder provided by the Grants Chair. Please review all documents before submission. Once documents are submitted ,they cannot be modified. Any applications submitted via a different method, not using required forms, missing deadlines, or being incomplete will not be considered.
- For an overview of the grant application and required attachments, please see ***Grant Application Guidelines***. This information will ensure your readiness to participate in our process.
- Seeds of Strength will acknowledge each Grant Application received within 24 hours from submission.
- The Grants Committee will evaluate each Grant Application and identify finalists by March 23, 2026. All applicants will be notified even if they are not selected as finalists.
- Seeds of Strength reserves the right to reject a grant application for any reason, including a missed deadline or incomplete information.

STEP 3: Grant Evaluation and Finalists Selected

- During this period, the Grants Committee will be reviewing the applications.
- If needed, the Grants Chair may notify some organizations and coordinate arrangements for either a site visit or virtual meeting or give extra paperwork.
- The objective of this additional visit is to complete a due diligence review and to resolve any remaining questions regarding the organization and the proposed program.

- Presentation: Finalists will be selected by March 23, 2026. They will receive instructions for preparing a 3 minute timed video presentation for viewing by the Seeds of Strength membership. The presentation should focus on the organization's proposed program and support the Program Executive Summary.
- Voting: Informed by the video presentation and Program Executive Summary, Seeds of Strength members will vote, votes will be counted, and grant recipients will be announced.

STEP 4: Grantees Notified

- Grants Award Event: Grant recipients will be introduced and presented with their "large check" award.
- Compliance Liaison: A Compliance Committee liaison will be assigned to work with the grantee organization during the Award Execution Year. Terms and conditions of the grant will be set forth in a Grant Agreement. The Grant Agreement stipulates the nonprofit agrees to use the funds in accordance with their grant request and Seeds of Strength's procedures.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND CONFIDENTIALITY:

Seeds of Strength is committed to acting with integrity in all our relationships, and to selecting our grant recipients through an honest and fair process. To that end, we have adopted a formal *Conflict of Interest* policy for all our committee members. We respectfully request all grant-seeking organizations to honor our policy and refrain from calling or contacting Seeds of Strength members during the grant selection process, particularly Grant Committee members. All committee members are asked to maintain the confidentiality of the grant process.

Questions? E-mail: grants@seedsofstrength.org