



Seeds of Strength Grant Eligibility Requirements and Funding Priorities

Resources: Documents and Forms referenced are available on the Seeds of Strength website: www.seedsofstrength.org, “Our Grants”, “Apply for a Grant”

Eligibility Requirements

Please review the following eligibility requirements to ensure both your organization and your proposal meet the criteria for a grant from Seeds of Strength. Consult the [Grant Application Guidelines](#), [Areas of Interest](#), and [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) for more guidance.

- The nonprofit must be classified as a “public charity” with tax-exempt status under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. If using a fiscal sponsor, include a copy of the fiscal sponsor’s 501(c) (3) determination letter.
- The applying organization’s target population is currently or will be serving individuals residing within the following Georgetown zip codes: 78626, 78627, 78628, 78633, 78634, 78641, 78665, 78673, and 78674.
- The applicant must determine the grant request amount ranging from \$10,000 to \$25,000.
- The core activities of the program or project should achieve at least one of the goals and outcomes listed in Seeds of Strength’s [Areas of Interest](#) Goals and Outcomes. Seeds of Strength does not provide guidance as to which focus area is appropriate.
- An applicant cannot apply for more than one grant in a given grant cycle.
- The applicant should identify measurable goals and agrees to monitor results.
- Collaborations and forging partnerships is encouraged among agencies toward common goals.
- In projects involving capital expenditures or improvements, applicant should own the property involved or have a long-term lease in effect as of the Grant Application due date with a minimum of five years remaining on the lease at the time of the grant request.
- The organization will use the full amount of Seeds of Strength’s grant and plan to expend the grant funds within 12 months (July 1 – June 30).
- If previously funded, the organization must have met all of Seeds of Strength’s reporting requirements on previous funding to be eligible for future funding.
- A grant recipient that has been funded for one (1) year must wait one (1) year before they can apply again.

Due Diligence: In addition, the organization's proposal for a program must meet the following due diligence requirements. If unable to do so, please explain why.

- The organization's Board meets regularly and is responsible for the direction of the organization and is charged with seeing that the organization fulfills its mission.
- Must have accounting structures that provide accurate and complete information in accordance with the current Standards of Accounting and Financial Reporting for all financial transactions related to the operations of the organization.
- Prepares an annual fiscal year budget for all expected revenues and expenses.
- Possess two years of financial statements (ideally audited or reviewed).
- Maintains a balanced budget or has an agreed upon plan for meeting deficits.
- Annually files IRS 990 Form within the time frame required.
- Conducts an Independent Financial Audit provided by a certified public accountant or is willing to complete the Seeds of Strength Financial Questionnaire.
- All volunteer organizations are welcome if they have a stable and effective leadership group defined as: at least three unrelated people who regularly work together to make decisions for the organization and coordinate/manage the work.

Collaboration:

- Two or more qualifying nonprofit organizations have the responsibility of managing and contributing to a program.
- Signed a Seeds of Strength Grant Program [Collaborator Agreement](#).
- One partner, identified as the lead-serving fiscal agent, completes the grant application and manages the grant funds.
- Both organizations must attach a copy of their 501(c) (3) IRS Determination Letter with the application.
- Both organizations must meet the minimum requirements, but only the lead organization must have a minimum operating budget of \$100,000 and be in operation for at least three years.
- The collaborative organization must also submit the requested financials and contact information to Seeds of Strength via the Dropbox file folder for the lead organization.
- Organizations applying for a grant as part of a Collaborative Program are not eligible to also apply in the same grant cycle for a grant as an individual organization, and vice versa.

Our guidelines continue to evolve, and Seeds of Strength reserves the right to change its criteria without prior notice at any time.

Funding Priorities

The intent of Seeds of Strength is to award grants that have the potential to result in a significant positive change in the community. We award grants:

- To organizations that have limited access to large grants and do not have the resources of larger nonprofits.
- That serve residents of Georgetown, Texas.
- That target underserved populations.
- That address a community need, an emerging community need, and/or provide a new, creative approach to a community need.

- That will have a high impact on the beneficiaries.
- That include creative solutions.
- Based on research and best practices.
- That offer opportunities for collaboration and foster partnerships, as well as leverage other funding sources.
- To programs that enhance the internal stability and growth of a receiving organization.
- To organizations that clearly state what they will do, how they will spend the grant monies, and why funding is requested.
- That demonstrate the ability to achieve measurable results. Priority will be given to a program/organization demonstrating high probability of sustainability beyond the grant period.
- That demonstrate the capacity to provide the necessary services using good administrative and financial management.

Funding will not be available for the following:

- For-profit organizations
- Umbrella organizations whose sole purpose is distributing funds to other entities
- Organizations for re-granting purposes
- Lobbying or political organizations
- Core operating expenses for public and private schools
- Event tickets and event sponsorships
- Individuals, for any purpose
- Endowment funding
- Deficit reduction
- Annual fund drives, annual appeals, fundraising events, or general capital campaigns
- A labor or fraternal organization, athletic or social club or association
- Organizations that discriminate by race, creed, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, disability, or national origin
- Research (medical or otherwise)
- Programs involving acquisition of real estate
- Capital Improvements or renovations to property for the grant program where the organization does not own or have at least a five-year lease at the time of the grant request
- Programs may not do any of the following:
 - Require belief in or participation in activities of a particular faith, denomination or religion in order to benefit from or receive services in connection with the program. Limit benefits to those who have particular religious beliefs or practices. Make the receipt of benefits or services from the program dependent on the recipient being required to participate in a proselytizing activity.
- Grant recipients, *excluding Merit Awards and Founders Awards*, that have been funded by Seeds of Strength the previous year must wait one (1) year to apply again.

For Final Consideration

1. The quality of the program is more important than the amount of the request.
2. Final funding decisions are based on the priorities of the membership as determined by their votes. Some programs will not be fully funded.