Impact100 Martin Grant Guidelines

Impact100 Martin annually awards grants of $100,000 to nonprofit organizations that provide services in Martin County for programs or projects that will have a major impact on the community. We encourage nonprofits to “think big,” that is, to propose projects that will have a transformative effect on both the organization receiving the grant and those benefiting from the project.

Grant Process

• **Phase 1** - All nonprofit organizations serving Martin County are invited to submit a letter of intent (LOI) clearly articulating a compelling project addressing a critical problem and clearly outlining the intended/envisioned impact.

• **Phase 2** - Once the LOI’s are evaluated, organizations are selected to submit full grant applications and videos. Additional information may be requested, if needed.

• **Phase 3** - Finalists are selected to present their proposals to the entire membership to vote at its Grant Awards Celebration. The organizations with the most votes receive the Impact Grants.

Eligible Organizations

• Must be incorporated and approved by the IRS as a 501(c)(3).

• Must serve Martin County. The organization does not have to be located in Martin County, but the proposed program/project must be for the Martin County community and its residents.

• Previous grant finalists who have not received a $100,000 Impact Grant.

Organizations Not Eligible

• Government entities, private foundations and community foundations.

• Those that have received a $100,000 Impact Grant within the last 3 years.

Grant Eligibility and Fundable Expenses

• An organization may submit only one proposal annually.

• Grant requests may be made for a new program or project; an expansion of an existing program; or a collaborative effort between two or more organizations.
• Parameters of these grants are determined yearly by the Grants Committee; currently there are no restrictions on focus areas and grant applications will be accepted for all fields of interest.
• The program/project must request exactly $100,000. If the project requires more than $100,000, the proposal must clearly outline the portion to be funded by Impact100 Martin and must identify the sources for the additional needed funding.
• The program/project, if necessary, can be phased up to three years for completion.
• The program/project must identify a meaningful, verifiable need.
• The program/project should detail a significant impactful change it hopes to make in a service delivery model, the broader service delivery network, or to address a specific targeted critical problem within Martin County.
• The program/project must demonstrate its feasibility and sustainability.
• The program/project must outline quantifiable, measurable outcomes.
• The program/project may include funding of program expenses such as equipment, salaries, operating expenses and overhead directly related and necessary to its implementation.
• If funding for capital expenditures or improvement necessary for the implementation of the program/project are included in the proposal, the organization must either own the property or have a lease with a minimum of five years remaining on the lease, as of July 1st of the grant award year.

**Grant Expenses Not Funded**

• Debt reduction, operating deficits, interim/bridge funding or endowment funding.
• Fund drives, annual appeals, fundraising events or general capital campaigns.
• Reimbursement of previously incurred expenses completed project.
• General existing operating expenses, equipment, staff salaries and other overhead not specific to the proposed program/project.
• Land or building purchases.
• Pass through funds.
• Grant to an individual.
• Partisan, legislative, or political activities.
• Projects of an individual church or religious organization for its own benefit or the sole benefit of its members.

**Helpful Hints When Preparing your LOI**

• Pay attention to length. If you go over the character limit in a section, the letters over the limit turn red and your LOI will not be submitted. In general, “Less is best.”
• Answer questions specifically. Avoid extraneous information.
• Avoid jargon and acronyms. If you use an acronym, identify its meaning the first time you use it.
• Avoid cutting and pasting from other applications and documents as the LOI loses its voice and flow.
• Before submitting, check for accuracy, check for adherence to guidelines, and check for spelling errors. These kinds of errors make the LOI appear less professional.

**Grant Process Timeline 2023 - 2024**

**November 28, 2023** – Grant announcement video available for nonprofits *(Phase 1)*

**January 10, 2024** – LOI’s due to The Community Foundation (TCFMSL)

**February 1, 2024** – TCFMSL notifies semifinalists to submit full applications & videos *(Phase 2)*

**February 29, 2024** – Full applications & videos due to TCFMSL

**March 28, 2024** – Invitations extended to finalists to give presentations for the Grant Awards Celebration *(Phase 3)*

**April 18, 2024** – Grant Awards Celebration

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