



The Mount Sinai Community Foundation Grant Applicant Guidelines

The Mount Sinai Community Foundation (MSCF) mission is to improve health, enhance wellbeing, or otherwise advance medical care in the Jewish and larger communities, honoring the history and legacy of the Mount Sinai Hospital.

MSCF members are proud Zionists who support Israel's right to defend itself.

MSCF Giving Circle Background

In 1951, amid heightened anti-Semitism and discrimination, a group of Jewish philanthropists and medical professionals launched Mount Sinai Hospital, opening opportunities to doctors of all ethnicities and religions to practice medicine. From its inception, an active auxiliary raised funds and provided services to support the hospital and its patients. Upon the closing of Mount Sinai Hospital in 1991, the Auxiliary established MSCF which continued to serve the community by annually allocating grants to area nonprofits. In 2012, the MSCF board adopted a new giving circle model, inviting the community to join the MSCF Giving Circle. Membership in the Giving Circle allows members to support local health and wellness initiatives by participating in the annual grant allocation process. Each year over 50 MSCF Giving Circle members read applications, listen to presentations, select finalists, and allocate grants.

Grant Application Model

MSCF invites 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations that meet MSCF's grant guidelines to submit a Letter of Inquiry (LOI). After review of LOIs received, we will invite up to 18 nonprofit organizations to submit full grant applications for one-time grants up to \$10,000 that fulfill MSCF's mission to improve health, enhance wellbeing, or otherwise advance medical care for Twin Cities Metro area residents.

Geographic Focus

Organizations must be located in one of seven Twin Cities Metro area counties: Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington Counties. MSCF gives equal consideration to proposals that impact Jewish and non-Jewish communities.

Funding Priorities

- MSCF seeks to fund innovative programs and/or essential equipment that have a meaningful, direct, and high impact on the target population.
- MSCF is especially interested in discrete projects that can be identified as MSCF funded efforts. These projects or items may be funded by MSCF funds alone or with a limited number of other funding partners.

- Applicants with unique grant requests who may be unable to secure funding elsewhere are encouraged to apply.
- Funding sought for information technology or equipment and/or software upgrades will not be considered unless they are integral to the delivery of the health or medical services provided.
- Grant requests where MSCF grant dollars are only a small component of the overall project budget are unlikely to be funded.
- Through the generosity of the Frances & Samuel Finkelstein/Janice Finkelstein Mattison Memorial Fund, one of the grants may receive funding for cancer research or education; medical ethics/patient advocacy programs; or treatment for children, seniors, disabled, or the homeless.

MSCF Review Criteria

MSCF uses the following criteria to review and select grantees:

- The extent to which the project meets the MSCF mission and the criteria described above;
- The extent to which the project has a direct and meaningful impact on the project's target population;
- The applicant's organizational and staffing capacity to implement the project;
- The extent to which the project design is likely to address the defined problem, achieve the stated objectives, and produce the results intended, all in the time frame outlined;
- The ability of the project to produce identifiable and measurable outcomes. (MSCF does not have any requirement for scope or size of the project, but seeks projects that will improve outcomes for the identified population); and
- The extent to which the project is discrete and identifiable as an MSCF-funded effort.

Application Requirements

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Applicants may not submit more than one LOI during any grant cycle.
- **Funding must be for projects, programs, research, or equipment which are not part of the applicant's operating budget.**
- Grants are for one-time funding for projects that can demonstrate measurable outcomes upon completion of the year of funding.
- Programs/projects funded in this grant cycle may begin as early as July and run through May. MSCF funds should be spent within this time frame.
- Applicants must meet the Public Charity requirement of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- Applicants must list all other sources of income sought for the project or equipment identified in the application.

Previously Funded Grantees

Organizations that received a MSCF grants within the past two grant cycles are not eligible to receive a MSCF grant in the current grant cycle.

Grant Acceptance Requirements

Organizations that are offered MSCF grants will receive a Letter of Agreement in which they must agree to the following:

- To submit a Grantee Outcome Report detailing the use and impact of the funds;
- That all publicity will indicate that funding, in whole or in part, “*was made possible through a grant from the Mount Sinai Community Foundation, a designated fund of the Minnesota Jewish Community Foundation.*”
- To submit a picture, logo, and a one-sentence description of the grant-funded project for MSCF marketing efforts; and
- To allow MSCF members to conduct a site visit at the grant recipient’s location.

A signed acceptance of the Letter of Agreement must be received no later than June 15th in order for funds to be released.

Presentation at MSCF Annual Grant Allocation Meeting

If selected as one of the eight finalists, a representative from your organization must be available to present at the MSCF Annual Meeting. Up to eight grant finalists will be asked to give a 15-minute presentation (inclusive of questions and answers) to the Giving Circle members at the MSCF Annual Grant Allocation Meeting to be held in person. Following the presentations, the Giving Circle members will vote on the grant awards.

Available Funding

Organizations may request up to \$10,000. MSCF typically funds between four and six grants totaling \$40,000-\$50,000. Grantees are encouraged to request only the specific amount needed to adequately fund their effort. Consideration will be given to the availability of funds from other sources if they are needed for the project. MSCF will fully fund the final selected grantees based on their requests up to the \$10,000 limit.

Application Submission

MSCF uses an online system which is a part of the Minnesota Jewish Community Foundation online grant portal. You can access the online grant system at <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=minneapolisjewishfederation>

Please refer to the Minnesota Jewish Community Foundation Grants webpage at <https://mnjcf.org/foundation-grants> for more information about MSCF.

If your organization is invited to submit a full grant proposal after our review of LOIs received, you will receive instructions on how to access the full online grant proposal form.

Application Questions

Potential applicants are encouraged to contact us to discuss their projects or ask questions prior to submitting an LOI. Potential applicants may contact Jenifer Robins at jrobins@mnjcf.org or 952-212-6128.

2024 Grant Cycle Timeline

LOI Release – Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Deadline for organizations to submit LOI – Monday, February 12, 2024

MSCF extends invitations to 16-18 organizations from LOI pool to submit full grant applications
– Monday, March 11, 2024

Deadline for invitees to submit full grant applications – Friday, March 22, 2024

Grant Finalists notified – Tuesday, April 16, 2024

MSCF Annual Giving Circle Meeting with Finalist Presentations – Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Written Grant Notification Mailed to Recipients – Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Grant Recipients' Letter of Agreement Due – Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Funds Released – Funds released 3-4 weeks after grantee letter of agreement submission unless otherwise stipulated by the Grants Chair.

Grantee Outcome Report Due – April 25, 2025