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The Great Expectations Fund

2019 - 2020 Grant Program

Eligibility & Application Instructions

Solano Community Foundation is currently accepting applications for 2019-2020 grant cycle funding from The Great Expectations Fund, a component fund of the Foundation. This year's application cycle opens September 7, 2019 and will close on May 15, 2020 to coincide with the 2019-2020 school-year calendar. This is a competitive award program, making grants of up to \$2,500 each max, to support public schools and qualified 501c3 nonprofit organizations serving Fairfield, Suisun, and Vallejo children and youth ages 5 to 20. The purpose of these grants is to provide low-income and at-risk (at promise) children with a variety of academic, cultural enrichment, and/or character development activities and experiences. Specifically, funding will support out-of-town field trips and excursions which expand horizons and cultivate new interests, both academically and culturally. Successful applicants will be those organizations (schools and social service agencies) that have limited or no funding, or lack the ability to raise their own funds for this purpose. Grants are not intended to promote religion/religious practices.

FOCUS AREAS

There are three focus areas. Activities and projects for children and youth to experience new and different opportunities to broaden their horizons, learn and grow will be funded. Trips to cultural exhibits and live performances (plays, concerts, presentations), trips to museums and zoos, and group activities that identify, encourage, and develop moral values are just a few examples.

1. Cultivate new interests (academic enrichment, out-of-town excursions, investigate career opportunities)
2. Cultural enrichment activities (performance arts and events, learn languages and customs, character development)
3. Nature and travel (science, wildlife, and nature camperships, visit historical landmarks, parks, museums, and zoos)

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. Teachers working in Fairfield, Suisun, and Vallejo (Solano County) public schools serving students in students in grades K – 12 are eligible to apply.
2. Nonprofits designated as I.R.S. 501(c)(3) organizations serving Solano County children and youth ages 5 to 20 are eligible to apply.
3. Funding must be used for projects that directly serve participants deemed “at-risk” (i.e., youth exposed to the possibility of danger, harm, or loss due to a higher number of risk factors and lower number of protective factors in their life), or those youth considered impoverished, or members of low-income households.
4. Submissions are limited to one request per teacher or nonprofit, for each grant cycle.
5. Funds awarded must be spent during the 2019-2020 school year (September 2019 through June 30, 2020).
6. Booster clubs, parent organizations, nonprofit organizations, and local businesses are not eligible to apply for funding on behalf of a school or nonprofit. No exceptions.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The SCF Grants Committee will use the criteria shown below to help make their award decision and recommended funding amount.

1. The need for funding is clearly stated and explained. Activities that clearly have the potential of changing a life for the better, or those that have a history of success, and those that embrace a high level of participant involvement, will receive strongest consideration.
2. The number of participants involved is clearly stated and the benefits to be gained from the grant are described.
3. The program and students are unique; the explanation of how and why is clear and concise.
4. The program expense items and amounts listed on the 'Project Budget Sheet' are directly related to the proposed activities and determined to be reasonable and accurate.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Responses and information requested must be typed directly in the fields provided. Incomplete applications or those that are submitted handwritten (except for a signature) will not be considered.
2. The Application Form itself may not be modified or reformatted by the applicant. The size of each field (and character limitation) is deliberately set to keep input brief and to the point.
3. Provide complete responses to each of the application questions. Limit the length of your responses to the spaces provided. Do not continue on a separate sheet.
4. The 'Project Budget Sheet' is a required component of the funding request. Applicants must provide **all** information requested.

APPLICATION DEADLINE & NOTIFICATION

1. Completed applications (and supporting information if needed) must be received by SCF on or before 12:00 p.m. on Friday, May 15, 2020. No exceptions.
2. Applications and supporting documentation may be submitted via email, regular mail, or delivered in person to:

Solano Community Foundation
Attn: The Great Expectations Grant Program
744 Empire Street, Suite 240
Fairfield, CA 94533
grants@solanocf.org
3. Applicants will receive an email from SCF confirming receipt of their request.
4. An award status notification will be sent to applicants upon SCF Board approval and the funding decision has been made.
5. Award letters and checks will be mailed to the school (to the Principal's attention), or to the nonprofit (ED or CEO's attention) normally within 5-7 work days *after* SCF Board approval.

PUBLICITY

Solano Community Foundation and The Great Expectations Fund Grant Program's role in providing funding support for school students and nonprofit participants is expected to appear in publicity releases, brochures, school program materials, and public reports. Acceptance of a grant from The Great Expectations Fund implies consent from the school administrator (and teacher), and the head of the nonprofit (ED or CEO) for SCF to use grant report information and photos in SCF's grantmaking publicity and media coverage.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Grant recipients are required to submit a written report using the SCF Grantee Report, as a condition of award. This final report is due to SCF when monies have been spent, but no later than June 30, 2020, ***whichever is sooner***. The grantee report template is available to download from The Great Expectations Fund page on the SCF website at www.solanocf.org.

In addition to the written report, two digital photos of children and youth participating in the funded activity/excursion/event is a required component of the SCF Grantee Report. The SCF Media Release Form is also required and available to download from the Fund page.