



**THE SAN DIEGO
WOMEN'S
FOUNDATION**

**FAQs – New Granting Process
1/26/2011**

1. What changes are we making?

A. Four focus areas (instead of six):

Health & Human Services Environment Arts & Culture

Education

B. Multi-year grants

2. Why are we making these changes?

Decision 2010 -- The membership voted to incorporate multi-year funding and to narrow the number of focus areas to four.

3. When are these changes taking place?

We will finish the six-focus-area cycle we are currently in with the Education granting cycle next year 2011-2012. The first of the four focus areas, Health & Human Services, will begin with our granting cycle 2012-2013.

4. I recall hearing or reading something about a “2 in 1 approach”. What happened to that?

The “2 in 1 approach” is, simply stated, having two focus areas each granting cycle. We look forward to incorporating “2 in 1” in the future at such time as we have more members to handle the additional effort anticipated.

5. What is a Letter of Inquiry (LOI)?

Along with the narrowing down of the number of focus areas, the Grants Task Force recommended that the application process be streamlined by using a Letter of Inquiry (LOI). LOIs are considered a best practice in grantmaking and are commonly used as the first step in the grant application process.

In response to established guidelines, applicants submit a 1-2 page executive summary of their project. If the project outlined in the LOI meets the grant criteria, then selected applicants are invited to submit a full proposal with all the required attachments.

6. Why are we adopting the LOI process?

LOIs will streamline the initial proposal review process for SDWF members and enable us to narrow down the number of full applications reviewed. The LOI will also save community organizations considerable up-front time spent preparing full applications.

7. How will the LOI process work?

Several options for the LOIs have been reviewed by the Grants Task Force. We do not have all the processes in place; however, we have time to figure it out well before the 2012-2013 granting cycle when we recommend launching the LOI process. If you are interested in participating in defining this process or have experience or expertise with it, we would welcome your input.

8. How do these changes impact our membership and our community?

With fewer funding areas, much of the work of the Discovery Team, for example, will be viable from one cycle to the next time it comes around. Also, a member's favorite focus area will come around more often. This is equally beneficial to grantseekers who will be able to apply every four years instead of every six. With multi-year granting, the Impact Team will have a larger role in following our community partners, and we will be able to contribute to the sustainability of our community partners' programs. It also assures the community that we are constantly evaluating, refining, and supporting them.

9. How will the funds be managed each year with two-year grants?

The amount awarded for a two-year grant will be set aside from that cycle's grant monies. That is, the first year's amount would be awarded right away; the second year amount will be set aside and awarded pending appropriate reviews, at the beginning of the second year.

Depending on the amounts awarded, this may initially result in fewer community partners.

10. How will the funds for a two-year grant be split? Do we allow the grantseeker to specify?

The grantseeker will state how they wish the grant to be split for Year 1 and Year 2. The application should explain the reasoning for the amount requested for each year's allocation.

11. Will we allow grantseekers to apply for less than two-year funding?

Yes. Grantseekers can apply for either one- or two-year funding.

12. Is the minimum grant amount still \$25,000? Can that amount be split over two years?

Yes. The minimum will remain at \$25,000. It can be split over two years.

13. How will the community partners be evaluated from year 1 to year 2?

The Grants Committee Impact Team, along with our Director and staff, will determine how the evaluation is to take place. The community partner will report on their progress and the goals/ objectives achieved.