Grant Seeker FAQs

Timeline

- **December 2021: Notification of Change to 2022 Grantmaking**
- **Mid-December 2021: Selected Nonprofits will be notified to apply for Round 1**
- **January 4, 2022: Round 1 Grant Applications open**
- **January 11, 2022: Round 1 Grant Applications close at 3pm**
- **April 1, 2022: Round 1 Grants will be awarded**
- **Summer 2022: Round 2 will open (final dates will be announced in late Spring 2022)**
- **December 2022: Round 2 Grants will be awarded**

A Technology Transition to Better Serve Community

1. **What is causing the change in 2022 grantmaking?**

At the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation, F. R. Bigelow Foundation, and Mardag Foundation, we are committed to continually improving how we partner with the community to support your critical work. In 2022, we will be transitioning to a new enterprise technology system, which will include adopting a new Grant Portal for our grantmaking.

- The technology will change, but the grant guidelines will not change. *What* we fund will stay the same; *how* grantees will apply will look different.
- Transitioning to a new Grant Portal system requires a large testing and data migration effort, which necessitates freezing our current system for a period of time. To ensure that we can still deliver critical funds into the community during this process, we are introducing a one-time transitional grant round.
- Round 1, the transitional round, will open in January of 2022 and will continue to use our current Grant Portal system. In this round, grantees from 2020 and 2021 will be selected to apply for a grant.
- Round 2, the open grant round, will launch in the Summer of 2022 and will use our new Grant Portal. This round will be open to all nonprofits, with the exception of those who received a grant in Round 1, that meet our current grant guidelines.

Between the two rounds, our program officers and relationship managers will have additional capacity to cultivate and build relationships with organizations that are new to us while also taking time to connect with and continue building relationships with current grantees.

Round 1 Application – Transitional Grant Round

2. **Why is Round 1 only limited to 2020 and 2021 grantees?**

Because there is such a tight timeline for transition to the new grant portal, we are prioritizing getting dollars out the door quickly in Round 1 to some existing grantees, eliminating the need for

due diligence, site visits, and comprehensive review of new applications since these steps have already been completed. This is why it was determined that only the most recent grantees would be considered for Round 1. This will allow the Foundation to still get funding out while having enough time to gather community input to inform and test the new system before launching the new Grant Portal in late summer 2022.

3. **How will grantees know they have been selected to apply for Round 1 of 2022 grantmaking? Who is eligible?**

Your organization will receive an email in mid-December indicating that you have been selected to apply.

Only grantees who received a grant in Round 1 of 2020, Round 2 of 2020, or Round 1 of 2021 will be eligible to be selected to apply for a grant in Round 1 of 2022. Not all eligible grantees will be selected to apply. Grantees who were notified of a grant award in Round 2 of 2021 will not be eligible for Round 1 of 2022.

4. **I can't recall if my organization received a grant in 2020 or 2021. How do I find out if I did or didn't?**

You will be notified if your organization received a grant during these years and if you have been selected to apply.

5. **What are the criteria you will use to select grantees from the eligible pool since not all organizations that are eligible will be selected to apply?**

Even in this transitional grant round, we are applying the same careful discernment we would in any regular grant round since community needs always exceed funding that we have available to grant. To help us make selections for this round, the Grant Team worked with each other and with the committees and boards of the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation, F. R. Bigelow Foundation, and Mardag Foundation to determine priorities within the existing grant guidelines that best align with what we are seeing and hearing from our community partners.

6. **What will the process be to apply for Round 1 of 2022 grantmaking? What information will we have to provide to the Foundation to formally apply?**

If selected, your organization will receive an email in mid-December indicating that you have been selected to apply for Round 1 of 2022. The email you receive will include a password that provides access to an abbreviated application form. On Jan. 4, 2022, you can log into the current Grant Portal and use that password to access the grant application. You will need to fill out and submit the application in order to receive funding. The grant application will close at 3 p.m. on Jan. 11, 2022.

7. **Once we submit our application, how long will it take for us to hear back about whether we will be receiving a grant for Round 1 2022 grantmaking?**

Grant applicants will be notified of funding decisions in February. All funds will be awarded by April 1, 2022.

8. **Are general operating and program grant requests eligible for Round 1 2022 grantmaking?**

Yes, general operating grants to organizations serving more than 50% East Metro will be prioritized. Only program grants for organizations based in and/or serving the East Metro will be considered.

9. **Are capital requests eligible for Round 1 of 2022 grantmaking?**

No capital grants will be considered for Mardag Foundation or Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation. F. R. Bigelow Foundation will only consider capital campaigns that are at the end of their fundraising cycle (ex. capstone, last dollar, critical matching dollars) and meet current grant guidelines.

10. **I received a grant in 2020 and/or 2021; who do I contact to determine if I am eligible for Round 1 of 2022 grantmaking?**

We have your information; you do not need to contact a Grant Team member. Selected grantees for Round 1 of 2022 will be notified by email in mid-December.

11. **I think I may have been selected to apply for Round 1 2022 grantmaking but need additional support with navigating this "new" application; who do I contact with my questions?**

Selected grantees will be notified by a Grant Team member. If you need further assistance, feel free to reach out to Nikki Lund at nikki.lund@spmcf.org with questions.

12. **What If my organization is not eligible for Round 1 of 2022?**

If your organization is not eligible for 2022 Round 1 or eligible but not selected to apply, we encourage you to reach out to a member of our Grant Team in mid-January. Our Grant Team is comprised of program officers and relationship managers who have program area expertise and can help you identify grants that are the best fit for your organization. If you are new to our Foundations, take a moment to meet the Grant Team, if you need further assistance feel free to reach out to Nikki Lund at nikki.lund@spmcf.org with questions.

Round 1 Funding Amounts

13. **What are the funding limits for each type of request?**

We will continue to make general operating and program grants. Only capital grants through the F. R. Bigelow Foundation will be accepted on a very limited basis for Round 1. There are no predetermined limits for each grant type. Based on need and available to grant dollars, the grant size (or dollar amount for each grant award) for Round 1 will be recommended by staff and approved by the respective board members of the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation, F. R. Bigelow Foundation, & Mardag Foundation.

14. **Are specific dollar amounts allocated to each type of grant or priority area?**

Each application is read and reviewed by the Grant Team and there are no predetermined allocations for grant types or priority areas.

Round 1 Geography

15. What are the geographic areas served through each foundation?

All three foundations will grant to organizations located in and/or serving residents in Ramsey, Washington and Dakota counties. Mardag Foundation will also fund organizations located in and/or serving Greater Minnesota excluding Hennepin, Anoka, Scott and Carver counties.

16. Do organizations have to be in Minnesota in order to apply?

Generally, organizations that receive grants are located in Minnesota.

Round 2 Application – Open Grant Round

17. Who will be eligible to apply for grants in Round 2 of 2022 grantmaking?

Round 2 will once again be an open grant cycle. All nonprofits and/or organizations with fiscal sponsors who meet our grant guidelines are eligible to apply. (The Mardag Foundation does not fund fiscal sponsors.)

18. If we received a grant in Round 1 of 2022 grantmaking, am I eligible for Round 2 of 2022 grantmaking?

No. If an organization receives a grant in Round 1 of 2022, that organization will not be able to get a grant in Round 2 of 2022.

19. I received a grant in 2020 and/or 2021, but did NOT receive a grant in Round 1 of 2022; am I eligible to apply in Round 2 of 2022 grantmaking?

Yes, if you did not receive a grant in Round 1 of 2022 and do not have an active grant with the respective foundation, you are eligible to apply.

20. When will the application for Round 2 of 2022 open?

Round 2 of 2022 will open in Summer 2022; final dates will be announced once finalized in late Spring 2022, but we anticipate no later than August 2022.

21. What is the deadline to apply for a grant in Round 2 of 2022?

Round 2 final deadlines will be announced once finalized in late Spring 2022.

22. What will the process be to apply for Round 2 of 2022 grantmaking? What information will we have to provide to the Foundation to formally apply?

The grant round will be facilitated through our new Grant Portal. We will communicate all process updates ahead of opening the grant round through to-be-announced Information Sessions. As usual, we encourage you to please reach out to a program officer or relationship manager before applying.

23. Once we submit our application, how long will it take for us to hear back about whether we will be receiving a grant for Round 2 of 2022 grantmaking?

Round 2 of 2022 final dates will be announced once finalized in late Spring 2022, but decisions will be made by December 2022.

24. Are capital requests eligible for Round 2 of 2022 grantmaking?

Yes. Capital grant requests that meet current grant guidelines will be considered per usual.

25. Are general operating and program grant requests eligible for Round 2 of 2022 grantmaking?

Yes. General operating grants will be available for organizations serving more than 50% East Metro. Only program grants from organizations based in and/or serving the East Metro will be considered.

26. If I have a question about whether or not my organization is eligible for Round 2 of 2022 grantmaking, who should I contact?

If your organization is new to the Foundation and/or if you have any questions about whether or not your organization is a fit for Round 2 of 2022, we encourage you to reach out to a member of our Grant Team in mid-January. Our Grant Team is comprised of program officers and relationship managers who have program area expertise and can help you identify grants that are the best fit for your organization. If you are new to our Foundations, take a moment to meet the Grant Team. If you need further assistance feel free to reach out to Nikki Lund nikki.lund@spmcf.org with questions.

Round 2 Geography

27. What are the geographic areas served through each foundation?

All three foundations will grant to organizations located in and/or serving residents in Ramsey, Washington and Dakota counties. Mardag Foundation will also fund organizations located in and/or serving Greater Minnesota excluding Hennepin, Anoka, Scott and Carver counties.

28. Do organizations have to be in Minnesota in order to apply?

Generally, organizations that receive grants are located in Minnesota.

Deadlines

29. When is my grant application due?

Check the Grant Resources Page for information about specific application deadlines.

30. Will you accept late applications?

No. In fairness to all applicants who submit their applications on time, our deadlines are firm.

31. What if I am having trouble accessing the online application?

We use an online application system. We understand this may present a barrier to some applicants, and we will make reasonable efforts to accommodate needs on a case-by-case basis. Please contact us as soon as possible, but no later than one week before the application deadline, to discuss your specific circumstances. We cannot make accommodations after the application deadline.

32. What if I my application is late due to technical issues?

Applications received after the deadline will not be considered except in the case of unforeseen technical difficulties beyond the applicant's control. If you are experiencing technical issues with the Grantee Portal, you must contact ashlee.tri@spmcf.org prior to the application deadline with the organization name and details of the technical issue (with screen captures if applicable).

In fairness to all applicants who submit their applications on time, the following conditions are not valid reasons to permit late submissions: 1) failure to complete the registration process before the deadline date; 2) failure to follow Grant Portal instructions on how to register and apply; 3) failure to follow grant guidelines; and 4) technical issues experienced with the applicant's computer or information technology (IT) environment.