



Sunflower Foundation

# Strengthening our Sector

Stronger Nonprofits for a Healthier Kansas

2023 Capacity Building Funding Opportunity



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# The SOS Team

## OUR BACKGROUND

- Sunflower Foundation's mission is to serve as a catalyst for improving the health of all Kansans.
  - In 2002, Sunflower launched its first ever capacity building grant funding opportunity. Now, with over two decades of experience in this space, the foundation has partnered with more than **330 capacity building grantees** to provide nearly **\$12 million** in funding.
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# CAPACITY BUILDING

Capacity Building refers to the principle that **capacity** is the infrastructure that allows an organization to fulfill its mission and strengthen its impact.

Quickly becoming a "Gold Standard" in the philanthropy sector, Capacity Building aims to **strengthen nonprofits** to become more equipped to provide their services. Historically, funding typically supports infrastructure, technology, communications, etc.



# SOS FUNDING



- The overarching goal of this funding is to improve the capacity of nonprofit organizations and their ability to:
  - Routinely meet their goals
  - Sustain day-to-day operations
  - Mobilize partners
  - Enhance systems
  - Secure resources
  - Grow influence
  - Increase their visibility
- This funding is designed to be flexible in the form of **core operating support**, which we define as the “working capital” that nonprofits need to function and execute their mission. YOU, the grantee, will decide how to use the dollars!



# SOS FUNDING



- Grantees will have flexibility to use grant dollars as they see fit, and we ask that grant deliverables be linked to proposed structural improvements within their organizations.
  - Diversifying revenue streams (targeted plans for fundraising and donor development, etc.)
  - Enhancing business functions (accounting, data management, etc.)
  - Improving communications (website design, social media, etc.)
  - Strengthening workforce & team culture; enhancing recruitment & retention
- Grant dollars may not be used for the following:
  - Construction/renovation
  - Medical equipment and/or healthcare equipment & supplies
  - Implementation of fundraising campaigns
  - Routine continuing education (such as for licensure or accreditation)
  - Individual healthcare or support

## SOS FUNDING



- Grant awards will not exceed a **maximum amount of \$25,000**. This process is competitive, which means not all qualifying and meritorious proposals can be funded.
- Grants are expected to be accomplished within **approximately one year from the date of the award**.
- Grantees will be expected to submit a progress report and final report. Guidelines will be stated in the Letter of Agreement. Reporting will be executed electronically via Fluxx, Sunflower's grants management system. Narrative reports in the form of virtual check-ins with program staff may also be an option.

# LEARNING COLLABORATIVES

- Peer learning in the form of collaboratives are a staple of Sunflower Foundation.
- In conjunction with this funding, grantees will have the opportunity to attend learning collaboratives with nonprofit leaders across the state and local/national experts in capacity building.
- Topics to be covered will be selected by you, the grantee, to support the work you do within your organizations.





# Who should apply?



- This funding is intended to support organizations working in collaboration with cross-sector partners to address **critical health and/or social issues** & serve communities in **enhancing local systems of care**.
- Eligible organizations must meet the following criteria:
  - A tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS; or
  - An instrumentality of state or local government\*; and
  - Embrace diversity and inclusion across multiple dimensions, including race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, and socioeconomic status.

# What does a successful application look like?



## **Be genuine.**

We want to hear about the obstacles you face so we can be a strong partner in your work.



## **Be personal.**

Write in your own words and use your own data. Focus on local data about the population you serve rather than national-level statistics.



## **Be ready to reflect.**

Consider meeting internally for an organization “self-check”. What challenges have you faced in the past year? What can be improved?



# NEXT STEPS

1. Read through the RFP in its entirety and reach out to us with any questions.
2. Conduct a self-assessment with team members to identify priority areas for funding. Use the application questions found in the RFP to guide discussion.
3. Register in our grants management system, [Eluxx](#).
4. Complete and submit the application by **5:00pm CT on October 19, 2023**. Technical assistance will be available until 4:00pm CT if needed.
5. Wait for funding announcements which will be made **on or before December 22, 2023**.



# QUESTIONS?

**Reach out to us!**

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