



MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT FUND OF THE SAINT PAUL & MINNESOTA FOUNDATION

Overview

The Management Improvement Fund, a special project of the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation, provides grants to nonprofit organizations operating in or serving the Twin Cities East Metro and/or Greater Minnesota. This Fund makes grants to small to midsize nonprofit organizations to finance the cost of consultation or technical assistance to improve organizational capacity and management capabilities to better serve the community. The staff of the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation provide assistance to potential grant applicants to help them define needs appropriate for funding and works closely with grant recipients to monitor their progress on their projects. Since 1985, the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation has provided more than 676 Management Improvement Fund grants totaling more than \$5.8 million to nonprofit organizations.

Partners in the Funding Collaborative

F. R. Bigelow Foundation
Mardag Foundation
Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation

Challenges Addressed

- The needs of nonprofit organizations vary widely due to the type, age and size of organizations as well as external factors influencing the nonprofit environment. Because of these differences, Management Improvement Fund grants offset the expenses of a variety of capacity-building activities, including organizational assessments, strategic planning and board development.
- Many nonprofit organizations struggle financially to raise enough revenue for their programs to serve low-income individuals and families and don't have the financial resources to pay for much needed professional consultation and technical services. Management Improvement Fund grants to nonprofit organizations help them stay strong and healthy, paying dividends to the communities they serve.

Activities Funded

The Management Improvement Fund makes grants for technical assistance and consultation to help improve the capacity and management of nonprofit organizations. Examples of these activities include but are not limited to:

- Organizational assessment
- Strategic planning
- Organizational restructuring / merger / dissolution
- Collaboration between groups and organizations
- Board development / governance
- Human resources / personnel assessment
- Marketing and Communications assessment
- Financial planning management

Eligible Expenses

The primary use of a Management Improvement Fund grant is to pay for consultation fees. Applicants select the consultant and are encouraged to thoroughly assess their needs. Please note that Management Improvement Fund applicants must include the written proposal / bid from the prospective consultant(s).

Funding Criteria

Organizations and groups applying for a Management Improvement Fund grant are reviewed with the following criteria in mind:

- Organization annual operating budgets of \$5 million or less.
- Organizations must serve a significant number of low-income persons.
- They can document that they are in strong need of the technical assistance through consultation.
- They are not likely to undertake the effort without financial assistance from the Fund.
- They are motivated to undertake the consultation / technical assistance.
- Time and staff capabilities to commit to the consultation and to implement changes.
- Their environment is conducive to working with a consultant, including stable leadership, board consensus on desired outcomes and the absence of imminent organizational crises.

Grant Amounts

The Management Improvement Fund will consider grants up to \$10,000. If approved, please note that your grant may be right sized to the work the organization does in the East Metro and/or Greater MN.

Grant Requests Not Accepted

The Management Improvement Fund of the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation will not consider grant requests for support of:

- Sectarian religious programs or organizations
- Organizations primarily serving the West Metro (Anoka, Hennepin, Carver and Scott counties)

Contact Us

All interested applicants are encouraged to email the Management Improvement Fund at mif@spmcf.org before applying to ensure that the Fund fits your needs.