



Strengthening Communities



Strengthening Communities



Awarded to support the development and implementation of collaborate and innovative community projects that address economic development, education, health, housing, transportation, or safety issues.



Innovative collaboration
funded by three partners.

First grants awarded in 2008.



- Start-up funds to incubate community projects
- Nonprofits, residents, full-time faculty, and student teams
- Tangible products and capacity building outcomes



2016 Grant Round

- Request for Proposals
- Partner networking
- Timeline



Applications due January 29, 2016

- Deadline: Noon
- Access application on the Strengthening Communities website www.memphis.edu/suapp/strenthening-communities/
- Once you begin your application, “Save and Continue” will work as long as you return to the survey on the same Internet browser and computer you started the survey on
- Word version of application will be available
- Application will be available starting September 2015
- Cannot have two Strengthening Communities grants active at the same time

Small Grants (\$2,500)

- Nonprofit organizations only
- Awarded to nonprofits for a one-time community development project, preferably to support initial work that will lead to a future Capacity Building Grant
- Small Grants are offered annually through a partnership with the Learning by Giving Foundation

Small Grants Budget

- Nonprofits may be funded for implementation expenses including:
 - Equipment
 - Supplies
 - Additional staffing needed to fulfill the project
 - Other



Capacity-Building Grants (\$18,500)

Capacity Building Grants are awarded to teams, consisting of nonprofits, community-based organizations, and/or grassroots groups and University of Memphis faculty and students, for projects that are framed by engaged scholarship. The SCI Capacity Building Grant awards are offered annually in partnership with the Community Foundation of Greater Memphis, United Way of the Mid-South, and the University of Memphis.

Three Key Goals of Capacity Building Grants

Organizational Capacity Building:

SCI supports projects that strengthen and enable the community partner organization to build its structures, systems, people, and skills so that it can achieve greater performance and impact.

Capacity Building activities include:

- Evaluation of Organization's Core Services
- Improvement of Organization's Program Delivery
- Organizational or Community Assets & Needs Assessments
- Strategic Collaborations
- Technology Skills, Training, and Implementation
- Volunteer Recruitment and Retention Planning

Three Key Goals of Capacity Building Grants

Geographically-based Projects:

SCI supports projects that clearly identify and impact a defined geographic community; for example a neighborhood, street, housing complex, or work site.

However, projects that do not have a geographic focus but instead target a group of people who share a common interest and represent a significantly underserved population will also be considered.



Three Key Goals of Capacity Building Grants

Engaged Scholarship & Student Involvement:

SCI supports projects that demonstrate evidence of engaged scholarship and student involvement as a significant component of their project. Engaged scholarship involves faculty members and students in academic projects in a sustained manner with community groups; connects university outreach with community organizational goals; and furthers productive relationships between the university and the community.

Capacity Building Grant Budget

- Faculty (\$6,500) may be funded for expenses related to:
 - Travel
 - Stipends for student assistants
 - Other expenses
 - Summer salary (up to \$4,500)
 - Equipment
 - Supplies
- Nonprofits (\$12,000) may be funded for implementation expenses including:
 - Equipment
 - Additional staffing needed to fulfill the project
 - Supplies



Universal Proposal Questions

Nonprofit Organization

- 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization or have fiscal agent
- Copy of 501(c)(3) letter
- List of officers, directors, and staff
- Organization description including mission and services provided



Universal Proposal Questions

- What is the proposed project?
- What is the defined community being served?
- What need is being addressed by this proposal?
- How does the project relate to one (or more) of the focus areas.
- If your project builds upon a past SCI Grant: How will it take the previous project in a new direction?
- How will the project increase capacity of the community and/or organization?

- Describe the collaborative process used to plan for this request, including how community members were involved. How will all of these parties be involved in the implementation of the project?
- Provide a timeline for the project period.
- Any other documents related to the proposal may be uploaded.

Letters of Support (up to three)

- We ask that you provide (up to three) letters of support from community partners with whom you are collaborating to execute this project. These letters should confirm the partner's intent to collaborate and should convey confidence in your organization to execute the proposed project.



Faculty Partner

- Full-time faculty at the University of Memphis at the time of application
- Faculty members cannot receive more than one Engaged Research Grant within a three-year period. For example: if a faculty member was awarded an SCl grant in 2013, 2014, or 2015, he/she is not eligible for a 2016 grant
- Endorsement Form signed by their Department Chair or Director. If the UM faculty partner's program does not have a Department Chair or Director, or if the faculty partner is the Department Chair or Director, this form must be signed by the UM faculty partner's Dean

- Applications should describe how University of Memphis students will be involved in the project, how their involvement will enhance their mastery of course content and disciplinary concepts, and how it will enhance their retention at the University.
- Applications should describe the faculty partner's research question(s); briefly discuss the relevant literature, and the scholarly products expected to result from the project.

Questions?

