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ABOUT THE SOCIAL VENTURE PARTNERS DENVER GRANTMAKING PROCESS 2010

Social Venture Partners Denver invites nonprofit organizations promoting ECE, K-12 education and/or youth development to submit a Letter of Interest (LOI) to be considered for grant support and volunteer technical assistance. Please read the following to learn more about SVP Denver's funding criteria, grantmaking process, and unique offer to the grantees it funds.

ABOUT US

Our mission

Social Venture Partners Denver seeks to catalyze positive social change by:

- Strengthening local nonprofit organizations through targeted investments of our partners' time, expertise and money; and
- Providing opportunities for our partners to become better informed and effective philanthropists.

Our commitment

SVP Denver's dual mission creates a shared learning opportunity for both SVP partners and SVP grantees. SVP partners are local professionals who volunteer time and expertise on behalf of the non-profit community, as well as pay an annual membership fee that is used to fund SVP's operations and grantmaking process. As a learning organization, SVP strives to provide its partners with information and hands-on experience that leads to greater awareness of Denver's key issues, and the challenges and opportunities facing the non-profit community. Through our educational offerings, our partners are exposed to a variety of leaders and topics designed to enhance their philanthropic giving and volunteerism.

Our commitment to our grantees is to provide financial operating support, technical assistance, and professional consultation to local nonprofits that are positively impacting youth. SVP partners are committed to working alongside grantee staff and board members to help build capacity, achieve goals, and improve the measurable impact of services delivered. In a recent survey, our past grantees reported that the SVP partnership allowed them to more successfully compete for funding from other regarded organizations.

More about SVP Denver

SVP Denver is not a traditional funder. When the SVP model was created in 1997 in Seattle, the founders were committed to not only giving cash grants to local nonprofits, but they wanted to mobilize business professionals to transfer their business knowledge to local nonprofit staff and boards. Through this *exchange of information* the goal was to increase nonprofits organizational capacities. The partnership that the founders envisioned was one of mutual benefit – the transfer of business best practices to nonprofits, while at the same time having the business professional learn about nonprofit culture, challenges, and opportunities. SVP Denver is committed to this vision of a mutually beneficial relationship.

SVP DENVER GRANTMAKING SELECTION CRITERIA

General Information

Agencies eligible for SVP Denver funding must:

- Be a qualified nonprofit agency with an established 501(c)3
- Be located and provide services within the seven county metro Denver area
- Be willing to work with SVP partners to build the capacity of their organization
- Be entrepreneurial in spirit, such as:
 - Willing to take a risk on a project/program/idea that is untested or in an early stage
 - Actively seeking new ways to improve/evaluate existing projects
- Be open to SVP teaming with the organization's staff or board to evaluate/implement programs and measure results
- Be collaborative with other nonprofits
- Have strong and passionate leadership
- Be willing to work with SVP Denver for up to 2 years

Program Specific

Successful applicants that serve youth will have several of the following characteristics:

- Promote quality time with adults
- Provide a safe place to learn or socialize
- Offer activities that teach life skills
- Encourage youth to contribute back to the community
- Involve youth in the design, implementation, and evaluation of programs

Who Should Apply

Organizations that have the following characteristics are encouraged to apply:

- Organizations that want to participate in this unique and mutually beneficial relationship
- Support of the board of directors to enter into this type of partnership
- Organizations with strong, stable leadership
- Are willing to examine their internal practices and receive outside assistance in a variety of practice areas
- Are looking to improve and expand upon their current business practices, evaluation techniques, and programs

Funding

- SVP Denver **will fund** general operations, specific programs/projects and capital equipment
- SVP Denver **will not fund** auctions, fundraising events, debt reduction, endowment funds, capital campaigns, litigation or legal expenses
- SVP Denver **does not fund** organization's whose mission furthers a particular religious or political doctrine

THE GRANTMAKING PROCESS

The SVP Denver grantmaking process is competitive because we are looking to build strong relationships with each of our grantees. With this in mind, we have tried to make our grantmaking process grantee friendly. In a

typical year, SVP Denver is looking to fund 1 or 2 new organizations, with the hope of having 4-5 active grantees each year in our funding portfolio.

The process begins with the LOI process. Through the review process the SVP Grantmaking Committee (GMC) will evaluate and review each LOI that is received on time. Through consensus the committee will select a certain number of organizations to submit a full proposal. SVP Denver does use an amended form of the Colorado Common Grant application. If your organization is selected to complete a full proposal for the GMC, the Executive Director and board chair will be invited to meet with SVP to discuss how to complete an application. Once the full proposals are received, our GMC will meet again to review and select organizations to site visit. Organizations that are site visited will be asked to complete a comprehensive organizational assessment. Although successful grantees are selected on a variety of factors, we are ultimately looking for those that demonstrate a real need and willingness to build a relationship with SVP partners.

Key Dates for Grantees

- **Monday, May 3, 2010** Letter of Interest and grant guidelines released
- **Thursday, July 1, 2010** Letters of Interest due to SVP Denver by 4:00 pm
- **Friday, August 27, 2010** Information session for grantees invited to submit a full proposal
- **Friday, September 24, 2010** Full proposals due to SVP Denver by 4:00 pm
- **November 15-December 17** Site Visits
- **February 2011** Grantees notified

WHY AN SVP GRANT?

Working with SVP Denver can be an opportunity for your organization to gain a different perspective on how it functions. Once an organization is selected to receive SVP funding, the partnership begins with the development of a work plan that our organizations will execute together over the two-year funding period. The work plan will incorporate benchmarks, and will be driven by the staff and boards of each organization.

Our partners come with a variety of perspectives and abilities, but all are committed to helping your agencies become better at delivering its mission. SVP partners will contribute their time, working with your board and staff on a variety of problems. They will contribute their business expertise to help you find solutions to your current needs. And, they will make strategic cash investments in your organization. SVP will also provide opportunities for staff and board leadership professional development through our Grantee Learning Circle program.

SVP grants are strategic investments in local agencies that are working to improve the lives of local youth. In return, SVP asks our grantees to engage our partners in meaningful operation planning, changes, and conversations.

For more information about SVP Denver, our funding priorities, and our grant cycle visit our web site at www.svpdenver.org or call (720) 974-2602.

Social Venture Partners Denver is a fund of The Denver Foundation



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A Mutually Beneficial Relationship: How SVP collaborates with Nonprofits

SVP Denver involves community-minded professionals in contributing time, money, and business expertise to ECE, K-12 education and youth development nonprofits in the greater Denver metro Area. SVP Denver helps nonprofits to be as effective as possible in delivering their programs and services by helping to build the organizational capacity of the nonprofits we fund. We define capacity building as the development of core skills, management practices, strategies, and systems to enhance an organization's effectiveness, sustainability and ability to fulfill its mission. SVP supports capacity building for its grantees (nonprofits that receive SVP grants) by providing cash grants, skilled volunteers, professional consultants, leadership development and management training opportunities.

SVP is comprised of individuals with a wide range of expertise and experience. These individuals, or partners, join SVP by contributing a minimum of \$2,500 a year. These funds are pooled and used to provide grants and fund SVP's operations. Once a grant is made, SVP works in partnership *with* the nonprofit to improve their ability to deliver effective programs. SVP recognizes that nonprofit practitioners are the program experts. SVP complements this programmatic expertise by helping to strengthen the management, governance, and internal operations of nonprofit organizations. At the same time, SVP partners hope to gain insights into community issues and solutions, nonprofit management, sector best practices, and the challenges and opportunities that exist within each organization.

In response to grantees' organizational capacity building needs, SVP provides skilled volunteers, technical assistance via professional consultants, or training opportunities in the areas described below.

- **Communications-** Communications and marketing plan development, media training, marketing campaign development, PR and media outreach, and communications department planning.
- **Financial Management-** Accounting procedures and systems, budget development, financial reporting, and auditing.
- **Fund Development-** Fundraising plan development, revenue diversification planning, donor cultivation, and special event planning.
- **Program Design and Evaluation-** Outcome-based program planning, development of evaluation framework and tools, data analysis.
- **Mission, Vision, Strategy and Planning-** Organizational assessment, business plan or strategic plan development, long-range planning and needs assessment.
- **Legal Affairs-** Insurance review, employment law, real estate negotiation, contract review, 501c3 creation, corporate by-laws development, and regulatory agency compliance.
- **Leadership Development-** Executive and team coaching, peer-networking, formal leadership training, and management skills training.
- **Board Leadership-** board development planning and training, policies and procedures development, skills assessment, board evaluation, and fundraising training.