



SPIRIT OF ST. LOUIS WOMEN'S FUND

2024-2025 SPIRIT OF ST. LOUIS WOMEN'S FUND LETTER OF INQUIRY

The Spirit of St. Louis Women's Fund (SOS) strengthens the Greater St. Louis community through informed, focused grant-making by educating and inspiring women to engage in significant giving.

SOS COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

SOS is committed to equity, diversity, collaboration, inclusiveness, transparency, and accountability because all people deserve to live full and abundant lives free of prejudice, discrimination and oppression. We will prioritize diversity, equity and inclusion in our philanthropy.

FOCUS AREAS:

Grants are not restricted to issues dealing exclusively with women, but are made to organizations focusing on at least one of the following areas:

- Arts and Culture
- Education
- Environment
- Health
- Social Services

AWARD TYPE/ELIGIBILITY:

In 2024 the SOS Board voted to move to a Two-Year Grant Cycle, discontinuing Single and Multi-Year Grants as of 2023.

LOIs and Applications are accepted in even years. Grants in the total amounts of \$20,000 - \$50,000 will be distributed in equal amounts in both even (application year) and odd years (engagement year).

An organization receiving a Two-Year grant must wait a full cycle before applying for another SOS grant.

EX: The 'AGENCY' is awarded a grant for the 2024-2025 cycle. They will receive a 50% distribution of the total amount in 2024 and the remaining 50% distribution in 2025. The 'AGENCY' may apply for another SOS grant in the 2028-2029 cycle.

GRANT APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS:

To be considered for SOS grant funding, organizations MUST:

- Have public charity status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code issued to an organization located in the Greater St. Louis Community.
- Have an operating budget of **less than \$1.5 million.**
- Be headquartered and provide services within the Greater St. Louis Community which includes the City of St. Louis and/or the following counties: St. Louis, St. Charles, Jefferson and Franklin in Missouri or St. Clair, Madison and Monroe in Illinois (Organizations can provide services outside this specific area but SOS will only fund the services provided to the Greater St. Louis Community)

WHAT SOS DOES NOT FUND:

SOS does not award grants for:

- Organizations not operating within the Greater St. Louis Community
- Services delivered outside of the Greater St. Louis Community
- Chapters of national organizations receiving financial support from their national office
- For-profit organizations
- Major building/capital campaigns, although program-specific capital requests may receive grants
- Conferences or benefits
- Individuals, for any purpose
- Scholarships for a named individual, although scholarship funds may receive grants
- Endowments
- Projects that promote religious or political doctrine
- Research (medical or otherwise)
- Operating deficits/retirement of existing debt

SOS HAS A FOUR-PHASE GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS:

- **May:** Submit Letter of Inquiry (LOI)
- **July:** Submit Full Grant Application **By Invitation Only**
- **August & September:** Meet with SOS members during a site visit
- **September & October:** SOS members vote on selected proposals and grants awarded at the Annual Grant Spirit Awards Ceremony

NEXT STEPS:

If the SOS interest areas and application requirements are compatible with the needs of your nonprofit organization you are invited to submit a Letter of Inquiry (LOI) on the St. Louis Community Foundation online grant application site.

Letters of Inquiry will be accepted May 1st, 2024 – May 17th, 2024 for the current grant cycle.

If you require technical assistance with this Letter of Inquiry contact at

[NikkiMartinez nmartinez@stlgives.org](mailto:nmartinez@stlgives.org) | 314.880.4961