SCORE Chapter and District Grant Program

What is the program?

We know SCORE chapters have innovative ideas, projects and events to increase services to clients and advance SCORE's strategic plan. Over the past 3 years, SCORE Headquarters has awarded $700,000 in competitive grants to chapters and districts. These grants have directly led to new client attraction, new volunteer attraction, and service innovations across more than 130 chapters.

In FY2018, SCORE Headquarters is making $300,000 available through the Chapter and District Grant Program. This year, there is no set number of grants. Grants will be awarded, based on the amount requested (up to $5,000), until the grant dollars are depleted.

If a chapter's project only requires $3,000, then we ask that the chapter only apply for $3,000. This will allow us to fund more projects and more chapters. All viable applications will be funded so long as grant money is available. Any chapter and district can apply and all are encouraged to apply.

How does it work?

Chapters and districts can apply by completing the information requested on the attached pages. All applications must be submitted by Dec 31, 2017. The application is simple and the submission should be no more than 2 pages in total.

What can the grant be used for?

These grants can be used for anything. However, in the past, winning grant applications almost all showed an immediate impact on the number of clients served or new volunteers recruited in this Fiscal Year. A request that will immediate show immediate results is viewed better than a request for equipment or passive marketing (billboards, newspapers, etc.). The application should describe as clearly the amount of money requested, the intended use of the money, the expected impact that will be seen, and a preliminary budget for the grant.

How will the applications be graded?

The grant applications will be graded on the merit of the intended use, the reality of the expected outcomes, and the budgeted use of money. Projects that have a definitive link to SCORE's strategic plan and objectives (attracting new clients, recruiting new volunteers, improving service quality, and improving culture) will be given priority. Other metrics may also be considered, including but not limited to, the innovation of the project, the demonstrated effectiveness of chapter leadership, the capacity to fully complete the project, the current budget allocation, the chapter's current bank account balance, the project timeline, and results from past grants.

Who will be grading the grant applications?

The 7 Regional Vice Presidents along with SCORE's VP of Field Operations will review all applications, rank, and prioritize the applications for funding.

When will the notifications of funding occur?

The target date for notification is by February 1, 2018. This will mean that chapters will have a full 8 months to implement and spend the grant money. It is also intended to publish a complete list of the grant winners and the projects funded so that everyone will see where this money is being allocated and the types of projects being prioritized in this process.

When will the money have to be used?

These grants are part of SCORE's FY18 federal grant. Therefore, all granted monies must be spent in FY18. **The date by which all monies must be spent and reimbursement requested is September 15, 2018**. None of these monies can be carried over into FY19.

Can a chapter apply for more than 1 grant?

Yes. However, the intent of this program is also to have as many participants as possible, so that would be a heavy consideration in the grading.

Can this grant be used to fund part of a larger project in the chapter?

Yes. In fact, this may be a great way to supplement funding of a larger, even more impactful project currently planned. There is a place in the application to note where additional funding may be coming from for projects that exceed the amount requested in the grant. Chapters investing their own money into a project is typically viewed positively by the judges.