DULUTH SUPERIOR AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

FUND FOR THE ENVIRONMENT GUIDELINES

FUND MISSION

The mission of the Fund for the Environment is to promote livable communities throughout the Lake Superior watershed and northwoods through public education, land use planning, and collaboration. Livable communities are defined as those that prosper economically while conserving natural ecosystems to maintain the region's high quality of life for future generations.

GOALS AND STRATEGIES

Goal I: Individually and collectively, citizens will recognize and assume responsibility to maintain the region's natural resources.

Strategies include:

- Undertake needs assessment to avoid duplication and enhance collaboration among environmental education programs.
- Develop community-wide environmental education projects that increase understanding of ecological and economic value of natural resources and the role of citizens in conservation. This would include a focus on public officials, college students, business leaders, and continuing adult education programs. Wherever possible, projects should be experiential and encourage networking and information sharing.
- Support demonstration projects that increase public awareness about environmental issues and can be replicated throughout the region.

Goal II: Innovative, livable community models will be developed regionally based on land use planning, natural heritage preservation, waste minimization, and green business development.

Strategies include:

- Undertake assessment to determine community planning needs regionwide.
- Help implement Duluth 2001 and assist communities throughout the region to develop and implement comparable vision plans. Projects could include brownfield and urban area reuse and cluster development and support for green business and pollution prevention opportunities.
- Support demonstration projects to conserve natural resources to maintain the area's high quality of life.

Goal III: Unique collaborations will be created to build consensus and achieve a shared vision among diverse stakeholders.

Strategies include:

- Undertake needs assessment to determine opportunities to creatively resolve community conflict.
- Foster new community leadership and partnerships among citizen groups, public officials, business, and academia to build livable communities.
- Proactively support model processes that anticipate and attempt to resolve issues to strengthen community.

Grants generally range from $500 to $2,000. Special projects will be considered.
The following areas are of low priority and usually will not be considered for funding:

- capital and equipment requests; and
- ongoing program support

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to apply for funding, an organization must:

- be classified as a charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; or classified as an organization under Section 170(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code; and
- be located in or provide service to residents within the seven counties of northeast Minnesota (Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake and St. Louis) and/or the three counties in northwest Wisconsin (Bayfield, Douglas and Ashland).

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Potential applicants should first submit a Letter of Intent, via the Community Foundation’s website at http://www.dsacommunityfoundation.com/apply-for-a-grant. Once you have contacted us with information about your project/program via the online grant application, staff will contact you regarding fund-specific guidelines and the application process. Applicants can also contact Community Foundation staff by telephone at 218.726.0232 or by email at grantsinfo@dsacommunityfoundation.com.

The Letter of Intent must be submitted using the online grant application portal at least 2 weeks prior to the deadline. Based on the outcome of the LOI, an organization may be encouraged to submit a full proposal through the online portal. The Community Foundation’s Grant Application Process is outlined on the website, along with a step-by-step tutorial for utilizing the online grant application. Please utilize the Community Foundation staff as a resource throughout the application process and contact staff with any questions by email at grantsinfo@dsacommunityfoundation.com or by telephone at 218.726.0232.

The deadline for receipt of proposals for the Fund for the Environment is October 1. The Board of Trustees will determine grants at the December meeting and awards will be announced in January. Grant awards may not be used retroactively. Complete proposals are to be submitted via the grants portal website before 5:00 p.m. on the deadline date. If the deadline falls on a weekend or holiday, complete proposals are due before 5:00 p.m. on the next business day following the deadline date.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE:

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