



## **Request for Proposals**

### **Questions from Applicants**

Below is the list of questions we have been asked by applicants as they prepare proposals and our responses. This list will be updated as we receive questions for our current funding round. Senior Fund staff are available to consult on applications throughout the process; you can schedule a time with our team or find our email and phone number here: <https://stlseniorfund.org/contact/>.

### **Q&A for Current RFPs Released Fall 2020**

**Q:** Can an organization apply for all three funding opportunities?

**A:** Yes, an organization can submit a different proposal for each funding opportunity: Emergency Needs, Applicant Defined, and Senior/Community Center. Note: For each funding opportunity, we are only accepting one proposal per organization. For the Center grant opportunity, you can include a request for capital or technology improvements AND general operating support.

**Q:** Do you plan to release a RFP for FY2022 Fund Defined grants?

**A:** Yes, we will release a RFP for FY2022 Fund Defined grants later this year.

**Q:** Some of our senior program funding is reliant on delivery of specific services, which we cannot implement due to COVID-19 safety guidelines. This means we are short on funding we expected to use to support our staff. Can we submit a request through the Emergency Needs grant to cover a portion of staff time due to this?

**A:** We did not originally list this as an example in our RFP, but we would support a request like this given the circumstances. That is, you have a loss of funding for staff due to COVID-19 that is affecting the delivery of your services for older City residents and the funds would be used to address an immediate need. *Note: We have updated the RFP as of 9.3.2020 to include this example.*

**Q:** Can an organization apply for each funding category for the Senior and Community Center grant?

**A:** Yes, applicants can include in their request support for general operating AND capital/technology projects up to the maximum for each category. Please make sure

to clearly delineate in your budget narrative how you will be using the grant should you be awarded.

**Q:** Are home repairs supported under Applicant Defined grants?

**A:** Yes, you can submit a request to support home repairs for older St. Louis City residents. Under Applicant Defined grants what we do not currently support is repairs or renovations to commercial buildings (i.e., your own facility).

**Q:** For Senior and Community Center grants, can we request support for improvements to our buildings for emergency lighting or repairs for an intercom system?

**A:** Yes, we will support any repairs or improvements to your building up to a maximum award of \$25,000.

**Q:** Does programming with senior apartments fall in line with funding opportunities?

**A:** Yes, if you serve senior apartment communities in the City of St. Louis, you can apply for funding support via the Emergency Needs grant and/or Applicant Defined grant.

**Q:** For the COVID-19 Emergency Needs category, can you submit for PPE already purchased?

**A:** We do not cover expenses already incurred and paid for. If you have a scenario where you have made a purchase and have a pending reimbursement (e.g., match funds), contact us and we can discuss your particular situation.

**Q:** Under the COVID-19 Emergency grant, are you looking for a certain percentage of residents that are served living in the priority zip codes if our organization serves residents City-wide?

**A:** We do not have a specific percentage of residents served in mind for a given zip code. However, we will prioritize services for residents in or near the zip codes we specified in making funding decisions. If you currently serve in these areas, it would be helpful if you provided information about where you currently serve residents in your application.

**Q:** If our organization is based outside of the City of St. Louis, but we serve City residents, can we apply for funding?

**A:** Yes, organizations that are physically located outside of St. Louis City, but serve City older residents are eligible to apply for our Applicant Defined and Emergency Needs grants.

## Q&A from RFPs Released Fall 2019

**Q:** If you are only funding a portion of a program, what should be reflected in the logic model? If they are getting other services that you are not supporting should it be in the logic model?

**A:** It depends on the program and what you are asking us support. For example, if you're asking for funding to support a home repair program, we would expect to see the all the key elements of the home repair program outlined in the logic model, even if a grant from the Senior Fund would only cover 20% of the total program costs. We do not expect you to outline all the services your organization provides, just what is relevant to the grant. You can email or call us if you'd like further feedback on this.

**Q:** Just to clarify, you *do not* need to submit a letter of intent for Applicant Defined Grants?

**A:** Correct. You only need to submit a letter of intent for Fund Defined Grants (i.e., this round that means if you are submitting a proposal for a Fund Defined Grant focused on Economic Security or Homemaker Chore – Exterior Maintenance).

**Q:** I noticed medication assistance was listed as a need identified in a past survey of residents. Can we apply for funding to help subsidize medications for City residents?

**A:** Yes. This request could fit under a Fund Defined Grant for the Economic Security focus area or an Applicant Defined Grant.

**Q:** Applicant Defined Grants are only for one year. Can an organization apply for another Applicant Defined Grant in the following year?

**A:** Yes. Organizations can apply for an Applicant Defined Grant as the lead organization once a year. Receiving an Applicant Defined Grant in FY20 does not preclude you from applying for an Applicant Defined Grant when RFPs are released for FY21.

**Q:** Are there currently any organizations that focus on hoarding in the City?

**A:** Some organizations may help residents with hoarding if it ties to threat of an eviction (e.g., Legal Services of Eastern Missouri) or other issues. There is not an organization to our knowledge that identifies hoarding as one of the primary issues they address.

**Q:** Can current grantees apply?

**A:** Yes. Organizations that have current contracts can apply for either funding opportunity if it is different from what the Senior Fund already supports for their

organization. If you have funding needs related to your current contracts with the Senior Fund, please contact our team to discuss.

**Q:** Can we submit for two different types of capacity building efforts under the same proposal?

**A:** Yes. Under one proposal you can submit a request for support for two different efforts that relate to your organization's capacity to deliver services if you deem both efforts are needed at this time. We recommend that you clearly delineate needs and expenses related to each effort in your proposal.

**Q:** Under Applicant Defined Grants, will you support capital improvement projects?

**A:** Not at this time. While we understand capital needs (i.e., construction, expansion, renovation, or replacement of existing facility or facilities or other permanent structures) can affect delivery of services, this funding category is not intended to support those projects. We do appreciate hearing about your capital improvement needs. This helps us match funding opportunities from other funders to needs in the City of St. Louis, as well as plan our budgets for future fiscal years.

**Q:** Are there any particular priority issues you are hoping to address with your Applicant Defined Grants?

**A:** We created this funding category to allow an opportunity for organizations to address community needs that may not fall within our current focus areas. So in general we do not have particular priority issues we are seeking to address with this funding round, however we will prioritize consistent community needs that are regularly identified through various sources, many of which were listed in our grant workshop held in October 2019 and posted on our website, under Meetings and Resources.