



Vehicle Matching Grants for Organizations

Funding Opportunity Guidelines

Applications Accepted
Rolling Basis

Senior Fund Background

St. Louis City Senior Fund was created by a voter supported ballot initiative in November 2016. The approved legislation allows the City of St. Louis to levy and collect a property tax of five cents per hundred dollars of valuation, “for the purpose of providing services to persons sixty years of age or older.”¹

Our vision is for the City of St. Louis to be an aging-friendly city where older residents can age in place.

We support this vision by providing grants to local nonprofits and government entities to help older adults continue living in the home and community that best serves their needs and interests. All grants from Senior Fund are connected to serving residents in the City of St. Louis who are 60 years or older.

Purpose of this Funding Opportunity

Senior Fund is allocating a small portion of our program investments each year to offer matching support for vehicle purchases for organizations serving older St. Louis City residents. We recognize organizations need reliable and functional vehicles to deliver transportation, meal delivery, home maintenance, and other services for their clients. We’re offering this grant assistance due to rising costs of—and limited resources for—purchasing new or used vehicles for organizations. This includes significant delays in receipt of vehicles for grant recipients of the [Section 5310 program](#), leading to the likelihood that organizations will owe match requirements on several vehicles at one time, instead of spaced out over a longer period of time. Funding can be requested to support a portion of the cost of a vehicle purchase(s), see below for more details.

Organization Eligibility

- An organization that is a 501c3 nonprofit or City of St. Louis government entity.
 - Uses a vehicle for the purpose of providing services to St. Louis City residents, 60 years of age and older.
 - Has policies and procedures in place for staff use of vehicles, including license requirements for drivers and insurance coverage.
 - Has policies and procedures in place to manage finances and can provide documentation of past financials when requested (e.g., audited financial statements, IRS 990, or other documentation).

¹ City of St. Louis Ordinance Number 70314
First released September 29, 2023; Revised July 2024

Funding Request Requirements

- The primary purpose of this matching grant opportunity is to support local match requirements for Section 5310 grants.
 - We will consider serving as a match for other funding sources if:
 - Your organization's vehicle purchase is not eligible for 5310 funding. **OR**
 - Your organization needs the vehicle before you can apply for the next 5310 funding round and estimated timeframe of fulfillment. **OR**
 - Your organization needs the vehicle before 5310 award fulfillment due to loss of vehicle because of accident, theft, or total mechanical failure not caused by negligence.
- Request can only be for vehicle purchases to be owned and used by the applicant organization.
 - This funding is not intended for vehicle repairs, ongoing maintenance, or other ongoing expenses tied to the operation of a vehicle (e.g., driver salaries, gas, insurance). It is also not intended to purchase vehicles that are owned by individuals or used for personal purposes.
- Vehicles to be purchased must be used for transportation for St. Louis City residents, 60 years or older, or delivery of other services to older St. Louis City residents (e.g., home delivered meals, other services that require transport of supplies or tools to a client's home).
 - We understand that vehicles may also be used for transportation of adults with disabilities younger than 60 or other clients—particularly for organizations that receive Older Americans Act funding for transportation services—but the primary use must be dedicated to serving older St. Louis City residents.
- Matching grant must be expended within one year of matching grant award decision.
 - If you are applying for Section 5310 funding, you can request a letter of support that indicates we have a funding category that supports local match requirements. Do not apply for a Senior Fund grant until you have been notified that a vehicle will be delivered soon, and you need to pay your local match amount.

Grant Award Limit

Senior Fund is accepting requests for support of up to 20% of the cost of a vehicle up to a maximum of \$20,000.

We will consider a higher match—up to 50%—if the request meets the following criteria and does not exceed \$40,000.

1. Your organization has no other immediate sources of funding to fill the gap between what is needed and what your Senior Fund grant request will cover. **AND**
2. Your organization has experienced a loss of vehicle due to accident, theft, or total mechanical failure and will need to deny or reduce services to older adults if vehicle is not replaced, **OR** purchase will result in immediate, and measurable, expansion of people served, **OR** addition to 20% cap is minor (i.e., less than a 25% increase to the requested grant award). **AND**
3. There are unallocated program investment dollars in Senior Fund’s budget for the fiscal year of the grant request.
 - a. All other grant requests will be considered, and awards approved prior to decision for applicants requiring additional dollars beyond a 20% match. This may mean your funding decision will be delayed until the end of our fiscal year (i.e., May or June).

Application Process

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis until funding budgeted for the fiscal year (July – June) is spent. There is no limit on the number of submissions an organization can submit within a year. All applications will be submitted via our online grants management system. You can see a preview of the application and instructions on our website through a link on our [Funding Opportunities](#) page.

We generally aim to determine funding decisions within four – five weeks after receipt of request; there are some periods in the year when the Executive Board is not scheduled to meet and may take a little longer to review and determine a decision. Senior Fund staff will be in contact about the estimated timeline when your application is submitted. Funding requests are reviewed by Senior Fund staff and board members. Final decision will be made at Board of Directors meeting. *Note: It can take two to three weeks from an award decision to process grant payments.*

Considerations for Decision & Grant Amount

- [Focus on Seniors](#) – Extent to which your organization focuses on serving older adults in City of St. Louis.
- [Use of Vehicle](#) – Purpose of vehicle use and extent to which it is used for serving older adults in City of St. Louis.

- [Source of Funding](#) – Preference will be given to match requests tied to Section 5310 grants. Considerations for other funding sources will be allowed as described above.
- [Effects of Support](#) – If funding isn't provided, what are the consequences for the organization.
- [Organization Budget](#) – Amount of funding support may range based on size of organization and other available funding sources. (i.e., preference for higher amounts of support will be given to organizations with budgets < \$500,000).
- [Recent Match Requests Awarded](#) – Amount of funding support may range based on number of other grants for vehicle support your organization has recently received from Senior Fund (i.e., preference for higher amounts of support will be given to organizations who have received minimal or no recent vehicle-related support).

Reservation of Rights

Senior Fund reserves the right to reject proposals submitted, to request additional information or clarification from any or all applicants, and/or negotiate changes with applicants at any time before, during, or after the award process. Grant awards are made at the sole discretion of Senior Fund. No entitlement to funding for any organization at any level is expressed or implied.

Each applicant, in seeking, receiving, or possessing a request for applications and/or in submitting an application in response does release, indemnify, and hold Senior Fund and its various employees, representatives, and agents harmless from and against all claims and demands of any and all loss, cost, damage, or liability of whatever nature, which may be asserted against or imposed against Senior Fund as a result of issuing requests for applications, making any revisions thereto, conducting a selection process and subsequent negotiations, and making a final recommendation and/or entering into a grant agreement. Senior Fund will not be responsible for any expenses incurred in the preparation or presentation of any proposal.

Questions

Please contact Senior Fund staff with questions about this funding opportunity or any other information regarding St. Louis City Senior Fund at info@stlseniorfund.org or call any staff member via the phone numbers listed on the [Contact Us](#) page of our website.