



The San Diego Women's Foundation (SDWF), a supporting organization of San Diego Foundation (SDF), connects, educates and inspires women to come together in collective philanthropy. All grant award decisions are made by SDWF members and affirmed by SDF's Board of Governors.

**THE SAN DIEGO WOMEN'S FOUNDATION**  
**Letter of Inquiry Guidelines for Grant Cycle 25**  
**Preventing and Addressing Senior Isolation and Loneliness**  
**Funding Start Date: July 1, 2025**

### **Grant Guidelines**

The Centers for Disease Control defines loneliness as the feeling of being alone, regardless of the amount of social contact while social isolation is a lack of social connections. Isolation can lead to loneliness in some people, while others may feel lonely without being socially isolated. Seniors (65+ years) in our community are experiencing loneliness and isolation in great numbers. They often live alone and lack transportation; many have lost family and friends.

We are accepting letters of inquiry (LOI) from qualifying nonprofit agencies and will grant unrestricted funding to those working to prevent and address senior isolation and loneliness through ongoing or increased social and community connections. We will prioritize organizations that provide services targeted toward those seniors most acutely impacted (low-income and those from under-resourced communities, the homebound, and individuals with disabilities).

Examples of the work we will support include, but are not limited to:

- Socialization opportunities that connect seniors with community on a regular, sustained basis.
- Transportation to and from social activities and essential services for seniors.
- Support for family and other caregivers so they are able to maintain contact with the seniors in their lives.
- Volunteer programs with the express intent of reducing senior isolation and loneliness through in person, virtual visit/phone calls or other methods.
- Bridging the digital divide to ensure seniors can access and engage technologies to connect with community.
- Staff salaries to provide continued or increased senior socialization and engagement services.

### **Letter of Inquiry Requirements**

Before submitting your LOI, please ensure the following criteria are satisfied:

#### **GRANT AMOUNT & PERIOD**

Our partners have shared that multi-year funding provides stability, supports creativity, and promotes resilience among nonprofit organizations. Therefore, we have shifted to providing the

option of one- or two-year grant terms, with a fixed grant amount of \$60,000. This amount can be disbursed all in one year or split over two years (\$30,000 per year).

This grant cycle begins on July 1, 2025, with the one-year term ending on June 30, 2026, and the two-year term ending on June 30, 2027. SDWF expects to award between \$200,000-\$250,000 in June 2025.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

Organizations must provide services in San Diego County and have tax-exempt 501(c)(3) status. An organization may serve as a fiscal sponsor for another organization that does not have tax-exempt status if a cooperative relationship between the two can be clearly demonstrated. The fiscal sponsor must be willing to administer the grant if awarded. Note: if you have a fiscal sponsor, the sponsor organization must be listed on the application. Please verify with your fiscal sponsor that they are not involved in any other applications before submitting.

**Collaborative proposals**, in which two or more organizations share funding and work jointly to implement a program or connected services, are eligible for funding. One organization must serve as the applicant: the application must be submitted under that organization's name and 501(c)(3), and funds will be granted to that organization to be dispersed among collaborators.

An organization may submit only one proposal. **This includes collaborations and fiscal sponsors.** If more than one proposal is submitted from the same organization, all proposals from that organization will be ineligible for funding. An organization that has received or currently is receiving funding from SDWF is eligible to apply.

### **HOW TO APPLY**

Organizations seeking a grant from SDWF must first complete a Letter of Inquiry (LOI) through San Diego Foundation's online portal. All applicants must have a user account to submit an SDWF Cycle 25 Letter of Inquiry. After creating or logging into your account, click the "Apply" button to access the application. For additional guidance regarding creating a new user account, please see [this tutorial](#). [Register/apply today](#).

The LOI submission deadline is **November 21, 2024 at 5:00 PM**. Incomplete or late LOIs will not be accepted. Full proposals will be subsequently requested from organizations that successfully meet LOI criteria and are selected by SDWF grant reviewers.

### **FUNDING INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS**

SDWF funds are unrestricted and may be used at the community partner's discretion. SDWF is proud to fund general operating and staffing costs.

SDWF generally does **not** fund:

- Major building campaigns
- Conferences
- Endowments
- For-profit organizations
- Existing organizational obligations/debt
- Individuals unaffiliated with a qualified fiscal sponsor
- Work outside of the San Diego region
- Projects that promote religious or political doctrine
- Research (medical or otherwise)
- Scholarships

## **GRANTSEEKERS FORUM**

All grantseekers are *strongly* encouraged to attend the Grantseekers Forum to learn about the SDWF Grant Guidelines and LOI process. The forum will be held:

Date: Tuesday, October 15, 2024

Time: 10:00 - 11:00 AM

Location: Zoom -- *Must register in advance to receive the meeting link.*

## **Grants Cycle Timeline**

*\*Dates subject to change*

**Monday, September 30, 2024**

**Monday, October 7, 2024**

**Tuesday, October 15, 2024, 10:00 AM**

**Thursday, November 21, 2024, 5:00 PM**

**Thursday, January 9, 2025**

**Thursday, February 6, 2025, 5:00 PM**

**Monday, March 10, 2025**

**April 14 - April 18, 2025**

**Tuesday, May 27, 2025**

**Date TBD, June 2025**

**Tuesday, July 1, 2025**

Release of LOI Guidelines

LOI Submissions Accepted

Grantseekers Forum

LOI Submission Deadline

Requests for Proposal Sent

Proposal Submission Deadline

Site Visit Invitation

Site Visits

Notification of Grant Awards

Annual Grants Celebration

Grant Term Start Date

## **Grants Cycle 25 LOI**

Below are the required LOI questions. For Cycle 25, all application materials must be submitted through our online portal. Please see the “How to Apply” section above for detailed instructions. Note: the following prompts are provided for reference only. LOIs will only be accepted through the [application portal](#).

**LOI Submission Deadline: Thursday, November 21, 2024 at 5:00PM**

### **Organization Information**

Mission Statement:

Year Organization Founded:

Funding Term: (funding to be split evenly across grant term - i.e. \$60,000 for a 2-year term = \$30,000/year)

- 1-year term
- 2-year term

### **Qualifying Questions:**

**If your response to any of the questions in this section is No, you are unlikely to qualify for SDWF funding.** Contact Angela Fujii with any questions at [afujii@sdfoundation.org](mailto:afujii@sdfoundation.org)

1. Does your organization prevent and address senior isolation and loneliness or plan to do so through ongoing or increased social and community connections? (YES/NO)
2. Does this work take place in San Diego County? (YES/NO)
3. SDWF guidelines stipulate that we will not fund work that promotes religious beliefs or political doctrine. Does this grant application adhere to these guidelines? (YES/NO)

### **Collaboration Questions:**

**Collaboration is defined as two or more organizations working together and sharing funding.**

**Please note: you must confirm with each collaborating organization before submitting this LOI. See Eligibility Requirements for additional info.**

1. Is this a collaboration project? (YES/NO)  
*\*Collaboration defined as two or more organizations working together **and sharing funds.***
2. If this is a collaboration, please list all collaborating organizations:  
*\* Please note: **you must confirm with each collaborating organization** before submitting this LOI. See Eligibility Requirements for additional info.*

### **LOI Questions:**

1. Provide an overview summarizing your organization’s existing or planned efforts to prevent and address senior (65+ years old) isolation and loneliness through ongoing or increased social and community connections, the anticipated results of your work, and how it fits within your broader organizational mission. (1800 characters)

2. Describe how your work fits within our grant guidelines. (1200 characters)
3. Describe your target population(s), how they are impacted by isolation and loneliness, and how you are reaching or plan to reach those seniors most impacted by inequities and marginalization. (1200 characters)
4. How does/will your work prevent and address senior isolation and loneliness in San Diego County? (1200 characters)
5. How does the leadership of your organization, including key staff implementing your senior isolation and loneliness work, reflect the community or constituency you are serving or plan to serve? Please share insights into any diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts your organization is taking. (1200 characters)
6. Describe your organization's strengths. If your organization has accomplished relevant, related work in the past, tell us about it and describe how it was accomplished. (1200 characters)
7. Do you give permission to the San Diego Women's Foundation to share details of your submission with other philanthropists?