



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 27
Assisting and Empowering Transition Age Youth
Funding Start Date: July 1, 2027**

GRANT GUIDELINES

Transition Age Youth (TAY) are young adults, ages 18-25, who are navigating the developmental and practical passage into adulthood that involves increasing independence. Many are exiting foster care, experiencing homelessness or housing instability, have untreated behavioral health concerns, lack consistent adult/family/community support, have been involved in the justice system or have experienced other barriers to long-term security.

These individuals may lack meaningful opportunities to develop the skills, knowledge and confidence necessary to achieve independence. Workforce development and education are integral to this process. Access to education, stable employment, financial literacy, career coaching and supportive services can allow young adults to move beyond immediate survival and toward sustainable economic independence.

The San Diego Women's Foundation is accepting letters of inquiry (LOI) from eligible nonprofit organizations and will grant unrestricted funding to those organizations **that assist and empower transition age youth to successfully enter into the workforce and advance toward long-term economic stability**. We will prioritize organizations that serve transition age youth from low-income backgrounds and communities (e.g. youth exiting foster care, experiencing or at risk of homelessness, justice-involved, from refugee and immigrant backgrounds, with intellectual or developmental disabilities, who identify as LGBTQ+, who are survivors of trauma) that have historically faced barriers to accessing educational and employment opportunities.

Areas of work that align with SDWF's funding priorities include, but are not limited to:

- Career exploration and preparedness
- Job training and development
- Resume and interview skills building
- Financial literacy and life skills training
- Education reengagement and high school completion
- Post-secondary planning and opportunities

Before submitting your LOI, please ensure that you understand and affirm (where applicable) the following:

GRANT AMOUNT & PERIOD

Our partners have shared that multi-year funding provides stability, supports creativity, and promotes resilience among nonprofit organizations. We are offering 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, 2027, with the one-year term ending on June 30, 2028, and the two-year term ending on June 30, 2029. SDWF expects to award between \$180,000-\$240,000 in June 2027.

ELIGIBILITY

SDWF only funds nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) or an equivalent tax-exempt status, located in and/or serving San Diego County communities. We **do not** provide funding to for-profit organizations, applicants without a qualified fiscal sponsor, projects outside the San Diego region, or organizations that require service recipients to participate in religious activities.

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 disbursed 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.

FUNDING INCLUSIONS

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

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 27 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 19, 2026 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.

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 13, 2026

Time: 12:00 - 1:00 PM

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

GRANTS CYCLE TIMELINE

**Dates subject to change*

September 28, 2026

October 13, 2026

October 14, 2026

November 19, 2026, 5:00 PM

January 7, 2027

February 4, 2027, 5:00 PM

March 5, 2027

April 12 - April 16, 2027

May 25, 2027

Date TBD, June 2027

July 1, 2027

Release of LOI Guidelines

Grantseekers Forum

LOI Submissions Accepted

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 27 LOI

Below are the required LOI prompts. 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: November 19, 2026 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

1. Does or will your organization assist and empower transition age youth (ages 18-25) to successfully enter the workforce and advance toward long-term economic stability?
(YES/NO)
2. Does this work take place in San Diego County? (YES/NO)
3. Does your organization have 501(c)(3) or an equivalent tax-exempt status AND does **not** require service recipients to participate in religious activities? (YES/NO)

Collaboration Questions:

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 Prompts:

1. Provide an overview summarizing your organization’s existing or planned efforts to assist and empower transition age youth (ages 18-25) to successfully enter the workforce and advance toward long-term economic stability, the anticipated results of your work, and how it fits within your broader organizational mission. (1800 characters)
2. Describe how your work with transition age youth will align with our grant guidelines and funding priorities. (1200 characters)

3. Describe your target population(s) and how you will prioritize, or are prioritizing, serving transition age youth from low-income backgrounds and communities (see above guidelines) that have historically faced barriers to accessing employment and educational opportunities. (1200 characters)
4. What long-term impact will your work have on expanding opportunities for transition age youth to advance their education, enter the workforce, and achieve financial stability? Describe any measurable outcomes or results you expect to achieve. (1500 characters)
5. Describe how your organization's strengths have prepared you to effectively assist and empower transition age youth toward economic stability. (1200 characters)
6. Describe your organization's past accomplishments and explain how these have enhanced your ability to successfully carry out this work. (1200 characters)
7. Do you give permission to the San Diego Women's Foundation to share details of your submission with potential collaborators and/or other philanthropists?