

DO NOT FILL OUT THIS FORM. PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION HERE: <https://forms.office.com/r/8zkZHpGYxN>
(We are including the application questions in this document solely for applicants' convenience.)
If you have any problems with the form, please contact Ileana at imejia@minnesotanonprofits.org.



2022 Nonprofit Voter Engagement Grant Application

The Minnesota Council of Nonprofits is offering grants to Minnesota's nonprofits* to promote participation in the 2022 election. We have two funding opportunities available to nonprofits with grants ranging in size from \$5,000 (Category 1) to \$10,000-\$25,000 (Category 2). More information about each of these categories, including example voter engagement activities, is found in the "Funding Tiers" section. **Applications for both grant categories are due on Wednesday, July 6 by 5pm CST.**

Context: Voting is a critical part of our democracy and nonprofits play an important role in elections. As nonprofits, we can encourage our communities to register to vote, inform constituents about voting processes such as dates and deadlines, share what is on the ballot, and remind people to vote on Election Day. For nearly 35 years MCN has convened nonprofits to do more together than what we could otherwise do apart. Coordination of voter engagement work has been and continues to be a core strategy in MCN's work to strengthen democracy. With 2,300 nonprofit members across the state MCN connects organizations and communities. This fall will be a busy time in Minnesota election races – all eight U.S. House of Representatives seats, the entire Minnesota House and Senate (201 seats), governor, secretary of state, attorney general, state auditor, and more are up for election this November.

We are all stronger when communities are using their voice and power to help shape and change systems that impact them every day – especially communities that have been historically disenfranchised from our country's democratic processes. Be part of the movement and consider applying for these grants!

Please send any questions or concerns to Ileana Mejia at imejia@minnesotanonprofits.org or via phone at 651-757-3072.

Much appreciation to the McKnight Foundation and another generous foundation for making these grants possible!

*Application Requirements

- Organization must be an IRS tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization, or be fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3) organization.
 - 501(c)(3) organizations: Submit a copy of your IRS Tax-Exempt Letter certifying your status as a 501(c)(3) with this application by emailing that document to Ileana Mejia at imejia@minnesotanonprofits.org
 - Fiscally sponsored organizations: Submit your fiscal sponsor's 501(c)(3) IRS Tax-Exempt Letter, and your written, signed fiscal sponsorship agreement with the fiscal sponsor by emailing those two documents to Ileana Mejia at imejia@minnesotanonprofits.org. If a fiscally sponsored organization is awarded a Nonprofit Voter Engagement Grant, the fiscal sponsor will be the grantee. For this reason, a fiscal sponsor is eligible to receive more than one Nonprofit Voter Engagement Grant.

DO NOT FILL OUT THIS FORM. PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION HERE: <https://forms.office.com/r/8zkZHpGYxN>

(We are including the application questions in this document solely for applicants' convenience.)

If you have any problems with the form, please contact Ileana at imejia@minnesotanonprofits.org.

- Organization must engage with voters who historically have not been included in in voting engagement efforts. These communities include: Black, Indigenous, and communities of color, immigrants who have become citizens, people with disabilities, people who are renters, college students, LGBTQ, low income, persons formerly not eligible to vote due to involvement with judicial system, people experiencing homelessness, and residents of rural MN.
- We are particularly interested in funding:
 - culturally-specific organizations, which are defined for these grants as organizations whose mission is specific to and rooted in an ethnic, racial, or cultural community or communities that has/have been historically marginalized, and whose broadly defined leadership (board and staff) largely reflects the constituents they work with and are rooted in historically disenfranchised communities
 - organizations focused on people in rural areas of Minnesota

Expectations

- **Grantees will conduct all activities in a nonpartisan manner.**
- Grantees will use funds for the intended purposes and will not engage in illegal activities. Note that it is illegal to provide incentives for people to vote (More info at [Bolder Advocacy](#))
- Grantees will need to track to the best of their ability and report the number of contacts made through various activities funded by this grant, such as attendees at events, social media connections, calls made, etc. This information will be requested at time of evaluation.
- **Evaluations will be due by Wednesday, November 30 at 5pm CST.** You can find a link to the initial evaluation questions [here](#). These evaluations help us to show our funders the amazing work you are doing, in turn making grants like these more likely to be available again in the future.
- In late September we will be asking grantees to share a few sentences about their work thus far, so that we can combine all the answers and share grantee activities with all grantees, in the hopes of sparking new ideas or starting dialogue between organizations doing similar work.

DO NOT FILL OUT THIS FORM. PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION HERE: <https://forms.office.com/r/8zkZHpGYxN>

(We are including the application questions in this document solely for applicants' convenience.)

If you have any problems with the form, please contact Ileana at imejia@minnesotanonprofits.org.

Funding Tiers (applicants can apply to one of the following grants)

Category 1	<p>\$5,000 to support the cost of voter engagement efforts leading up to 2022 mid-term elections. These grants are designed for nonprofits that can do critical elections engagement work in their communities, whether that organization has done voter engagement work in the past or whether this will be their first foray into the work. We expect most applicants to request the full \$5,000, but are allowing for smaller grants if an organization wouldn't be able to use the full \$5,000. We anticipate granting 22 Category 1 awards. Grant can be used to cover the costs of staff time, technology, refreshments for volunteers, space rental, materials, etc. (This is not an exhaustive list). Grant-funded activities could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Door knocking efforts to remind community members to register and vote- Community information events, like tabling at a festival or hosting a concert- Promotional materials- Hiring an artist to create materials that will appeal to your community- Digital promotion (social media or other online platforms)- Pledge campaign to increase voter turnout on Election Day- This is not an exhaustive list, please be creative and propose what will best reach your community! <p>Please note that we can provide supplemental funds for interpretation or translation if that is core to reaching your audience(s).</p>
Category 2	<p>\$10,000 - \$25,000 to support the cost of voter engagements efforts leading up to 2022 mid-term elections. This grant is intended for organizations who have a history of large-scale voter engagement or organizing their communities around other important issues (Census, issue-based advocacy, etc). Organizations who apply for this grant will need to illustrate past community organizing efforts. Organizations can apply for an amount between \$10,000-\$25,000. We anticipate granting 4-8 Category 2 awards, depending on proposal amounts. Grant-funded activities could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Door knocking efforts to remind community members to register and vote- Community information events, like tabling at a festival or hosting a concert- Promotional materials- Hiring an artist to create materials that will appeal to your community- Digital promotion (social media or other online platforms)- Informational panel with guests from democracy field & community members- This is not an exhaustive list, please be creative and propose what will best reach your community! <p>Please note that we can provide supplemental funds for interpretation or translation if that is core to reaching your audience(s).</p>

DO NOT FILL OUT THIS FORM. PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION HERE: <https://forms.office.com/r/8zkZHpGYxN>
 (We are including the application questions in this document solely for applicants' convenience.)
 If you have any problems with the form, please contact Ileana at imejia@minnesotanonprofits.org.

Overview of Key Dates

Category 1 (\$5,000 grants) timeline

June 8	Nonprofit Voter Engagement Grant applications open
July 6	Applications due at 5pm (central time)
July 7 – July 29	Category 1 grant committee review period
August 3	Grantees notified and announced on MCN's website
August 17	OPTIONAL: Grantees can attend a training on 501c3 election do's & don'ts. Will be virtual and recorded.

Category 2 (\$10,000 to \$25,000 grants) timeline

June 8	Nonprofit Voter Engagement Grant applications open
July 6	Applications due at 5pm (central time)
July 7 – July 22	Category 2 grant committee review period
July 27	Grantees notified and announced on MCN's website
August 17	OPTIONAL: Grantees can attend a training on 501c3 election do's & don'ts. Will be virtual and recorded.

DO NOT FILL OUT THIS FORM. PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION HERE: <https://forms.office.com/r/8zkZHpGYxN>
 (We are including the application questions in this document solely for applicants' convenience.)
 If you have any problems with the form, please contact Ileana at imejia@minnesotanonprofits.org.

Which of the two grants are you applying for? (Check one)

Category 1 (\$5,000) Category 2 (between \$10,000 to \$25,000) Please answer next question.

If you are applying for the Category 2 grant and are not awarded that amount, would you like to be considered for a Category 1 grant (\$5,000)? (Check one)

Yes* No

*If applicable, we will reach out to you and request a modified budget that would total \$5,000.

Did you read over expectations and application requirements?

Yes
 No

DO NOT FILL OUT THIS FORM. PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION HERE: <https://forms.office.com/r/8zkZHpGYxN>

(We are including the application questions in this document solely for applicants' convenience.)

If you have any problems with the form, please contact Ileana at imejia@minnesotanonprofits.org.

Applicant Organization Name

Project Contact name

Organization Address

Project Contact Phone

Project Contact Email

Provide a summary of your organization's mission, history, programs, and activities. In your summary please address: who do you serve? Who are your volunteers? Who hears your messages? How many members or contacts are in your database? (We expect answers to be 2-3 paragraphs, but you are welcome to write as little or as much as you need.)

Describe your target audience for 2022 election voter engagement. Who do you intend to mobilize or educate? (We expect answers to be 1-3 sentences, but you are welcome to write as little or as much as you need.)

Category 2 APPLICANTS: Describe your organizations history of successful community organizing. Are there tactics your organization has successfully used before that you will use in voter engagement? Are there lessons you have learned about what does not work? If you would like to provide supplemental documentation, please email that to Ileana Mejia, imejia@minnesotanonprofits.org. We expect answers to be 2-3 paragraphs, but you are welcome to write as little or as much as you need.

What methods will you use to reach your audience about the election, and when will those voter engagement activities begin? Please describe any collaborations with other organizations or groups you may do around election outreach activities. (Please note that we can provide supplemental funds for interpretation or translation if that is core to reaching your audience(s). Include in your budget below what the cost of that interpretation or translation would be, even if it brings the total cost to over \$5,000.)

What is your organization's annual budget? You can use your organization's total annual expenses for the previous fiscal year or average your organization's total annual expenses over the last 5 years. Options are:

Up to \$750k

\$750K to \$5 million

\$5 million +

What is your organization's full-time equivalency (FTE) staff count? Options are:

1-15

16-25

26+

DO NOT FILL OUT THIS FORM. PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION HERE: <https://forms.office.com/r/8zkZHpGYxN>

(We are including the application questions in this document solely for applicants' convenience.)

If you have any problems with the form, please contact Ileana at imejia@minnesotanonprofits.org.

Estimated Breakdown of Expenditures

Please provide a general idea of proposed activity/s and estimated costs (e.g., space rental, marketing, materials, technology, refreshments, staff time, etc). Please note that we can provide supplemental funds for interpretation or translation if that is core to reaching your audience(s). Include in your budget below what the cost of that interpretation or translation would be, even if it brings the total cost to over the grant size.

EXAMPLE:

Social media promotions - \$100 each x 10 promotions = \$1,000

Refreshments - \$250 x 4 in-person events = \$1,000

Communications Manager - .10 FTE for three months = \$1,500

Space Rental - \$250 x 2 = \$500

Printed Materials - \$1,000

Total - \$5,000

Required Application Materials

- Complete the online application: <https://forms.office.com/r/8zkZHpGYxN>
- Email 501c3 Determination Letter from the IRS (or that letter and your fiscal sponsor agreement) to [Ileana Mejia](mailto:ileana.mejia@minnesotanonprofits.org) at imejia@minnesotanonprofits.org

Optional Application Materials

If you would like to submit other materials, please include those with your 501c3 Determination Letter. Note that including optional materials are more relevant for Category 2 applicants, to demonstrate a history of successful community organizing efforts. Optional materials may include: annual report, social media statistics, invitations to past events, etc.