

Friends are embarking on a second year defined by the COVID-19 pandemic and its fallout. Your organization, and the library you exist to support, are doubtless facing challenges and uncertainties on an unprecedented scale. We claim no cure-all solution... but a versatile grant sure won't hurt your efforts!

The Minnesota Association of Library Friends (MALF) is proud to announce the return of its popular COVID-19 Grant Response Program for 2021.

What's the catch? There isn't one. This program is, by design, broad and responsive in nature. A wide array of purchases and priorities are qualified for consideration, so long as you can demonstrate *value* for your library and, by extension, its patrons. (As we inch towards recovery and a new normal, it stands to reason that each will do it a little differently.)

As a way of "priming the pump," here are examples of ways that *last year's* grant recipients deployed MALF mini-grants to respond to pandemic-related challenges. [Note: This is not meant as an exhaustive list.]

- ✓ **Direct Library Support.** Odds are high that your traditional Friends fundraisers have been, and will continue to be, impacted by the pandemic. Perhaps this puts you in a position where you cannot fund a previously identified library need that the Friends had originally intended to bankroll. Similarly, perhaps COVID-19 introduces *brand new* funding needs that you wish to assist the library with!
- ✓ **Virtual Programming.** Libraries everywhere are perfecting virtual methods of program delivery to fill the vacuum left by the closure of brick-and-mortar facilities. So, too, are many enterprising Friends groups. MALF considers author honoraria, instructor compensation, and indirect costs like platform maintenance fees as all eligible for consideration.
- ✓ **Operational Costs.** In this age of social distancing, most of us are doing things a little differently: videoconferencing instead of meeting in person, hosting fundraisers in the virtual space for the first time, forgoing print newsletters in favor of online ones, and so on. Are the subscriptions and other pertinent costs prohibitive for you? Consider this grant. Costs incurred after 1/1/21 are fair game.

Eligibility Requirements

Eligible applicants are Friends of the Library organizations that:

- (1) serve a Minnesota-based public, school K-12, college/university, or special library;
- (2) are 501(c)3 nonprofits eligible to receive tax-deductible donations, and in good standing with the IRS and Minnesota Secretary of State;
- (3) are current in their annual MALF membership dues;
- (4) are looking to fund a need or fill a budgetary shortfall in 2021 (i.e., no 2020 expenses can be reimbursed);
- (5) are willing to report back on expenditures and impacts using a 1-page template provided by MALF.

Application Instructions

Applications for this third cycle of the COVID-19 Grant Response Program will be accepted through **Friday, April 30, 2021**. Email a docx or pdf of Pg. 2 to info@mnlibraryfriends.org, using the subject line "MALF COVID-19 Grant Response Program." Questions can be routed to this same address.

In total, ten grants (of \$400/ea.) are available in this initial phase of the program. Winners will be selected by random draw from a pool of all fully eligible applications received by the stated deadline.

Organization (Legal Name): _____ Federal Tax ID#: _____

Contact Person: _____ Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Street/Mailing Address: _____, MN, _____

How much money are you requesting (max. \$400)? _____

Please check that all of the following apply:

- We are a Minnesota-based Friends of the Library organization, and current in our yearly MALF membership dues.
- Our organization is in good standing with the IRS and Minnesota Secretary of State.*
- We will, within four months of receiving funds, report back to MALF about expenditures and impacts. (MALF will provide a simple one-page e-form for this purpose.)

How will a monetary grant of \$400 help your Friends in this time of uncertainly and transitions?

Remember, your library may be a direct or indirect beneficiary of this grant. Please articulate a need, along with expected or hoped-for impacts. We recommend 200-300 words.

[Box expands as needed.]

**Nonprofits whose annual gross receipts are normally not more than \$5,000 may receive tax-deductible charitable contributions without filing an application for recognition as a 501(c)(3) organization. HOWEVER, they are still required to register with the IRS by calling 1-877-829-5500 and to file annual Form 990-N ("e-postcard").*