

# Five Star Community Foundation

## Grant Funding Policy

9/1/2011

### **Section 1) Policy Purpose:**

Grants made by the Five Star Community Foundation will be made in accordance with this policy and criteria as adopted by the Five Star Community Foundation Advisory Committee

### **Section 2) Grant Objectives:**

- 1) Applicants for funds, and the program funded, must serve residents of the Five Star communities and the surrounding area.
- 2) The policy of the Foundation is to provide grants for community development projects and programs, which are responsive to the changing community needs in promoting quality education, cultural, wellness, recreational, social service, environmental and civic opportunities.

### **Section 3) Eligible Grant Recipients:**

Grants are made to nonprofit organizations under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, churches, schools, and to government agencies. Grants generally will not be made to individuals.

### **Section 4) General Grant Criteria:**

Preference is given to projects meeting the following criteria:

- Projects that have significant potential for long-term community benefit.
- Projects that have a high potential for success in achieving their objectives, as may be evidenced by the organization's degree of commitment and ability to obtain the needed resources to plan, organize, implement and complete the project with integrity.
- Projects that meet community needs not currently being met.
- Projects that promote volunteer participation and citizen involvement in meeting our community's needs.
- Projects that enhance the Quality of Life in the area.

## **Section 5) Matching Funds and Challenge Grants**

The Foundation wishes to use its grant making to encourage the participation of others in funding projects. The Foundation will on occasion provide matching funds or challenge grants in an attempt to stimulate increased response from other sources.

## **Section 6) Grant Program Limitations:**

1) Grants are not usually made to support operating expenses of well-established organizations or ongoing programs, or in response to annual fund drives for sustaining support. On occasion, the Foundation may provide operating expense support on a short-term basis when such support is critical to the survival of a key agency or program, which has been placed in jeopardy by changes in funding patterns. A grant for operating funds to revitalize or expand an existing program may be made only if the applicant demonstrates the program can become self sustaining.

2) Grants are not usually made to establish or add to endowment funds.

3) Grants from discretionary funds will not ordinarily be made for the general use of churches or for sectarian religious purposes except from designated portions of the Foundation, which have been established for such purposes.

A grant may be made to a church, including a school operated by a church, for non-religious and non-sectarian programs that meet the needs of the entire community and are open to the entire community, provided there is a well designed process for reaching beyond the church membership for participants in the program.

## **Section 7) Specific Grant Programs Created:**

The Five Star Community Foundation Advisory Committee hereby creates three grant programs:

### 1) Community Development Grant Program

This grant program will award major grants that fulfill the conditions described in Section 4 of this policy. The Advisory Committee shall designate and publicize a grant application period in the spring of each year. Grants will be awarded in a timely manner following this application process.

The application for a Community Development Grant shall include a detailed program narrative as well as a proposed program budget. The Advisory Committee shall provide forms and instructions to applicants.

Multiple-year Community Development Grants may be awarded. If a Multiple-year Community Development Grant is awarded, funds will be provided annually and

subsequent year funding is contingent upon compliance in the previous year(s) with any and all stipulations set forth by the Foundation. If the Foundation determines that any stipulations not been met, it may, at its sole discretion, terminate continued funding of the project or program.

The Five Star Community Foundation Advisory Committee shall approve additional criteria and rules for the Community Development Grant Program as needed.

## 2) Mini Grant Program

The Mini Grant program will annually award one or two grants to each of the Five Star communities, Lucan, Seaforth, Vesta, Wabasso, and Wanda, with a total award amount of up to \$1,000 to each community.

The Mini Grant application is to be brief and require only that information necessary to inform the foundation of the purpose and goal of the funded project.

Mini Grant Applications will be accepted during an application period designated by the Advisory Committee in the fall of each year. If the \$1,000 grant allocation to a community is not awarded as a result of the fall application process, applications may be submitted at any time throughout the year with awards made in a timely manner. Any allocation to a community that is not awarded prior to the beginning of the subsequent year application period is cancelled.

The Five Star Community Foundation Advisory Committee shall approve any necessary additional criteria and rules for implementation of this grant program.

## 3) Five Star Scholarship

The Five Star Community Foundation will award a \$1,000 scholarship to a Wabasso High School graduating senior beginning with the class of 2012.

Funds to pay for the scholarship shall be paid to ISD 640 which shall have the full responsibility for selecting the individual recipient.

The Five Star Community Foundation Advisory Committee may recommend scholarship selection criteria provided that criteria is approved by the Advisory Committee and communicated to the school district prior to the start of the academic year at the end of which the scholarship will be awarded.

## **Section 8) Scholarship Challenge Grant Program**

The Five Star Community Foundation hereby creates a Scholarship Endowment Challenge Grant program in cooperation with the ISD 640 Foundation. (Note: the ISD 640 Foundation is also affiliated with the Minnesota Community Foundation and is overseen by the Five Star Community Foundation Advisory Committee.)

The Five Star Community Foundation will make an annual grant to the ISD 640 Foundation for the purpose of matching any scholarship awarded from a new scholarship endowment created within the ISD 640 Foundation. The conditions for this matching program are as follows:

- 1) The scholarship match grant from the Foundation to the ISD 640 Foundation will be \$100 per year for each \$2000 of endowment up to a maximum match grant of \$500 per year per scholarship.
- 2) The scholarship match grant to the ISD 640 Foundation for any specific endowment will be made for ten years.
- 3) Scholarship recipients will be graduating seniors of Wabasso High School.
- 4) The total amount of the scholarship match grant in any one year shall not exceed 20% of the amount of money newly available to grant by the Foundation for that year.

## **Section 9) General Grant Conditions**

- 1) The Five Star Foundation Advisory Committee may create grant programs in addition to those listed in this policy.
- 2) By amending this policy, The Five Star Foundation Advisory Committee may modify or discontinue any grant program listed within this policy.
- 3) The Five Star Foundation Advisory Committee shall make such rules and issue such criteria as necessary for the efficient implantation of the grant programs and the fulfillment of this policy.