YOLO COUNTY ARP MINI GRANTS PROGRAM

YOLO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION INFO SESSIONS – KEY TAKEAWAYS
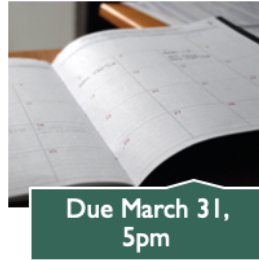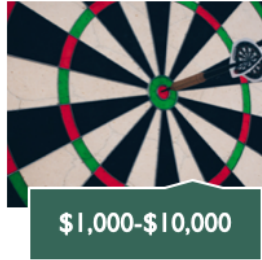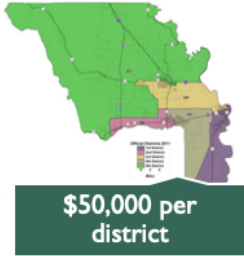
INFO SESSION OVERVIEW

Grant Basics ➡ Eligibility ➡ Grantmaking Process ➡ Effective Applications ➡ Q&A

The County has engaged the Yolo Community Foundation to engage in applicant outreach and support. YCF is:
- Conducting outreach to local nonprofits to spread the word about the grant opportunity.
- Providing support to applicants via info sessions and office hours.
- NOT involved in the grant review process.

GRANT BASICS

| $50,000 per district | $1,000-$10,000 | Due March 31, 5pm | Anyone Can Apply |

- $50,000 to be granted in each supervisorial district. (District map is on application.) Applicants should apply in the district(s) where the program will take place (regardless of HQ location). Applicants CAN apply in multiple districts, by checking multiple districts off on a single application or by submitting multiple applications; only submit multiple separate applications if the applications are different (program, needs, etc.). Amount requested in different districts can be different. Proposals should be independent on one another – if the applicant applies in two districts and is only funded one, the applicant should be able to execute its proposal in that district.
- The target grant size is $1,000-$10,000 – but this isn't a firm requirement, and applications outside this target range will still be reviewed. The grant amount requested should be driven by the project to be funded, not by the size of the applicant, economic impact of the pandemic on the applicant, etc.
- Applications are due March 31 at 5pm: https://yolocountyca.seamlessdocs.com/f/ARPMiniGrantsApplication Note that applicants cannot save the application and come back to it, so draft applications in a separate program (Word, etc.).
- Anyone can apply: Nonprofit, government entity, business, individual, etc., including applicants that have previously submitted ARP proposals, whether or not they were funded. If the applicant was previously selected for ARP funding, the mini grant application should be for a different project; mini grant applications should not seek to add funding to projects already funded with County ARP money unless there is a new need that isn't being met through the existing grant.

Please note that the Board is looking to see proposals that deliver services, as opposed to proposals that just provide economic support to the applicant.

Eligible Uses of ARP Funds:
https://destinyhosted.com/yolocdocs/2021/BOS/20211026_3366/11429_Attachment_C.pdf

ELIGIBILITY: BOARD GUIDING PRINCIPALS

- One-Time Funding
- Nexus to Pandemic
- Needs Based/Data Informed
- Maximize Opportunity
- Avoid Duplication
- Prioritize Transformational Projects
- Linkage to the Strategic Plan

The board understands these are $1,000 to $10,000 grants and will be assessing programs according to these principles within the context of the grant sizes. E.g., include what data you have (quantitative or qualitative), but the County knows that collecting robust data could use up the entire grant. Be clear about why the impact of the program is important, even transformational for the specific individuals served, but the Board knows that applicants can't make massive transformational change with this amount of funding.

Please see the full text of the Board's Guiding Principles:
https://www.yolocounty.org/home/showpublisheddocument/69448/637795592065030000

Strategic plan: https://www.yolocounty.org/about-us/mission-values-strategic-plan

GRANTMAKING PROCESS
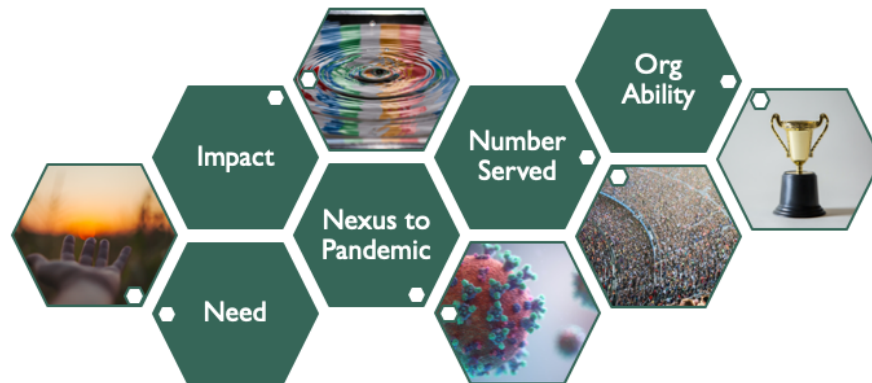
Applications submitted by March 31, 5pm

County staff reviews proposals for eligibility: "Likely eligible," "may be eligible," "likely not eligible"; sends to respective districts

Supervisors & district staff review proposals, select proposed slate of grantees

County staff contacts proposed grantees to confirm program details, eligibility

Full slate of proposed grantees goes to Board of Supervisors for final approval

Applications should address:

- What need do you seek to address and why does it matters in this supervisorial district?
- How does this problem relate to the pandemic? (nexus to pandemic in board guiding principles)
- What is the expected impact on the participants/beneficiaries?
- How many Yolo County residents do you seek to serve through this program?
- Who are you/your organization? Share some context about your ability to carry out this project. (Note that there isn't a specific application question that asks for this information, but it can be integrated into various responses or added to the "Any other relevant information" question.)
- Please note: If the total budget of the program is substantially more than the grant amount, please indicate briefly how the money will be spent and/or how the balance of the funds will be raised.

EFFECTIVE APPLICATIONS: TOP TIPS

- This is a short application that doesn't require extensive detail. Focus on being clear, sharing key highlights.
- Make it readable. Avoid jargon. Have someone who isn't deeply familiar with your program read it – do they understand what you're proposing?
- Be clear on what you're proposing to actually DO and why it matters.
- Review the eligibility requirements and board guiding principles – does your program truly fit?
- Give yourself time to draft and revise. This is a short and easy application, but don't wait until March 30 to start!
- Pull from existing content (e.g., prior grant applications, website text) as relevant.
- Have questions once you get started? Come to YCF's office hours.

In grant applications, applicants are often excellent at communicating the problem to be addressed and the desired end-state, but are sometimes so close to the program that they don't realize other people don't understand what they're actually proposing to DO. Applications should make sure to say what the intervention is and why that intervention will help move us from from the problem state to the end-goal.

Office hours details and registration: https://www.yolocf.org/american-rescue-plan-mini-grants/