

# SanDisk Foundation Competitive Grant Applicant FAQs

## What are the SanDisk Foundation's grantmaking focus areas?

The focus areas are K-12 Education; Promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM); and Children's/Youth Issues (Health and Welfare).

## How did the Foundation select these focus areas?

We conducted an extensive survey to review best practices, identify key issues facing our regions and researched issues. We also hosted a series of focus groups within SanDisk, hosted one-on-one information sessions with our employees and conducted an online employee survey. After gathering and reviewing extensive input, we selected the most critical areas in which we could have an impact and that align with SanDisk's core values -- innovation, focus on execution, adaptability and agility, teamwork and integrity.

## Who decided on those strategies?

Our executive staff approved the focus areas, which were recommended by our philanthropy services consultant and our Community Sharing Committee members (comprised of SanDisk employees).

## What are the geographic restrictions for funding?

To be eligible to apply for funding, your organization must have a significant presence in Santa Clara County and the surrounding nine-county Bay Area. Organizations headquartered outside this region must demonstrate services provided in these geographic areas.

## When may I apply for a grant under one of the five strategies?

The SanDisk Foundation uses a grant application process with specific application deadlines for submission. Applications are accepted quarterly and are due no later than 5:00 pm on:

- January 2<sup>nd</sup> (decisions communicated by March 15th)
- April 1<sup>st</sup> (decisions communicated by June 15th)
- July 1<sup>st</sup> (decisions communicated by September 15th)
- October 1<sup>st</sup> (decisions communicated by December 15th)

Please see our Community Sharing Program guidelines, eligibility requirements and application form for more information (available in [Word](#) and [RTF](#) formats).

## How do I obtain an application?

The policy guidelines, eligibility requirements and application form is currently available on our website. Download them here in [Word](#) and [RTF](#) formats.

**Where can I get more information about applying for a grant?**

Our [website](#) has our selected focus areas and our application process (available in [Word](#) and [RTF](#) formats).

**Are there any organizational eligibility requirements that would prevent an organization from being considered for a grant (i.e., organizations that have been incorporated for less than a year, have a small budget or staff complement)?**

The SanDisk Foundation does not have any specific eligibility requirements related to budget or staff size. However, an organization must be in operation for a minimum of one full year before being eligible to apply. The process *is* competitive and an organization's relevant experience and organizational capacity are examined closely during the review process. Please refer to Community Sharing Program guidelines, eligibility requirements and application (available in [Word](#) and [RTF](#) formats) for the complete list of requirements.

**May we submit multiple proposals under the grantmaking process?**

No. We accept only one proposal per calendar year.

**My organization intends to submit a proposal application under one of the Foundation's focus areas. If we are awarded a grant under that area, will we be eligible to respond under other focus areas?**

No. We accept only one proposal per calendar year.

**If my organization submits a grant proposal, is it possible that the organization may be awarded less money than requested?**

Yes. It is possible that your organization will be awarded a smaller grant than what was requested.

**Will any general operating support grants be awarded?**

Yes. Organizations can request operating support as part of their request for planning or implementation of specific projects.

**Is the organizational budget information SanDisk requires based on our current fiscal year or a projection for the upcoming year?**

You may base it on either, but if you anticipate a significant change—higher or lower—in your organization's overall budget going forward, you should include the projected budget and explain the anticipated change in the budget narrative. We require your organization's most recent audited financial report or balance sheet and P&L for the last completed fiscal year.

**When will we be notified if we have received a grant?**

Please refer to the key dates in our Community Sharing Program guidelines, eligibility requirements and application (available in [Word](#) and [RTF](#) formats) for the specific months during which we will announce grant recipients.

**May we submit letters of recommendation?**

No. We ask that you *not* submit letters of recommendation. We will not evaluate them as part of your proposal. If we need additional information that is not included in your proposal submission package, we will contact you.

**If our proposal does not get funding, will I receive comments from the reviewers or a debriefing of some other kind from the community foundation?**

We will endeavor to be as responsive to questions from applicants as possible, given the volume of proposals we receive.

*(revised Oct. 2011)*