



## Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation Paint the Town Grant Program Guidelines and Procedures

Effective February 2019

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) is a catalyst for economic growth in 20 Minnesota counties. We work to build a prosperous region with vibrant communities and innovative businesses. To accomplish this, we invest in early childhood, economic development and community vitality initiatives.

SMIF's Paint the Town Grant Program is designed to engage volunteers and build collaborative efforts that beautify communities with a population under 10,000. The grant is administered by SMIF in partnership with 14 Ace Hardware stores. The participating stores are located in Chaska, Eagan, Faribault, Farmington, Mankato, Northfield, Owatonna, Rochester (3 locations), Shakopee, St. Charles, St. Peter, and Zumbrota. SMIF donates the paint products.

IRS-Designated 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations and units/agencies of government (local, state and federal) in our 20-county southern Minnesota region can apply to receive free paint products for community mural, community welcome sign, or historic structure projects. Up to ten applicants will be chosen from this grant round and the award will be announced May 31, 2019.

### FUNDING

Between 15-100 gallons of paint from selected Ace Hardware stores valued around \$25 per gallon.

### ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for a SMIF grant, organizations must meet the following requirements:

- Eligible organizations are tax exempt 501(c)(3) organizations, units/agencies of local, state or federal government and public schools/higher education institutions.
- Located (or serve) within SMIF's 20-county region:
 

Blue Earth	Fillmore	Le Sueur	Olmsted	Wabasha
Brown	Freeborn	Martin	Rice	Waseca
Dodge	Goodhue	Mower	Sibley	Watsonwan
Faribault	Houston	Nicollet	Steele	Winona
- Community population must be under 10,000 (U.S. 2010 Census)





- All projects must exhibit visual impact, current/intended public use of the structure, and volunteer participation.
- Privately-owned buildings must have a government organization or IRS designated 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization as a fiscal agent to receive the paint.
- Historic structures must be owned and operated by a government organization or IRS designated 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
- At least 50% of the painting must be done by community volunteers.
- Sentencing to Service Program (STS) participants are not considered volunteers.
- Muralists/artists who assist in the design and application may participate in the project but are not considered volunteers if they are being paid for their work.
- Paint requests up to 100 gallons will be considered. SMIF reserves the right to limit paint product amounts awarded.
- SMIF only covers the cost of awarded paint; grantee is responsible for the cost of supplies, equipment and any additional paint.
- Only community mural, community welcome sign, or historic structure projects will be considered.

## EXCLUSIONS

Ineligible organizations or activities include:

- Organizations that do not meet the above criteria
- Privately-owned facilities that require membership/fee for access

## APPLICATION PROCESS

### Grant Review and Award Process

SMIF awards paint grants on a competitive basis.

A review committee created by SMIF will make the final grant award decisions.

Grant recipients are required to connect with a representative of one of the participating Ace Hardware stores to discuss the details of their project and order paint products. The store contact information will be provided with award letter. The store will invoice SMIF for the cost of the awarded paint.

Grant recipients must pick up their paint products at one of the participating Ace Hardware stores. Please consider travel costs before completing the application.

The Project Completion Report and photos of the completed project must be provided to SMIF no later than December 2, 2019.

SMIF will issue a general news release highlighting the awards.





SOUTHERN MINNESOTA  
INITIATIVE FOUNDATION

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#### Proposal Components

- Completed application
- Photos of project area
- Color sketch of mural or sign (if mural or welcome sign)
- IRS determination letter (if 501(c) organization)
- Letter(s) of support from volunteers or volunteer organization(s) describing their role in your project

**For grant award consideration, submit a completed application by May 15, 2019** via email to [jenniferh@smifoundation.org](mailto:jenniferh@smifoundation.org) or postal mail to:

Grants Coordinator  
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation  
PO Box 695  
Owatonna, MN 55060

All applicants will be contacted via email or telephone to confirm receipt of their application. Applicants will be notified of award decisions by May 31, 2019.

For further information or questions regarding the application, call Jennifer Heien, Grants Coordinator, at 507-214-7040 or email at [jenniferh@smifoundation.org](mailto:jenniferh@smifoundation.org).

*SMIF is a member of the Minnesota Council of Foundations and adheres to the Council of Foundation's Statement of Principles and Practices. SMIF's annual report is available on-line at [www.smifoundation.org](http://www.smifoundation.org)*

