

The J.L. Bedsole Foundation Grant Guidelines

General Criteria

The Foundation considers requests that most closely match its overall mission: to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Southwest Alabama and to strengthen the communities in which they live. A group may apply for a grant only if it is a nonprofit organization with tax-exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service code, and Section 509(a)(1), (2) or (3) as a “public charity” or “a governmental unit.” The Foundation will consider only those grant applications that meet several of the following guidelines.

- The project addresses needs in at least one of the following areas: education, arts and culture, health and human services and economic development.
- There is potential for permanent, enduring benefits that will provide value to the community and the residents of Southwest Alabama.
- Diverse groups are collaborating on the project to achieve common goals.
- The organization and the project clearly demonstrate sound fiscal management and accountability.
- The organization attracts multiple sources of support for the project.
- The project addresses underserved segments of the population, the economically disadvantaged or citizens of rural communities.

Restrictions and limitations

The Foundation will not support the following:

- Grants that support political activities or attempts to influence action on specific legislation.
- Multiple year pledges nor make grants beyond the current year.
- Grants to endowment funds of other organizations.
- Grants are not made directly to individuals.
- Grants are not made to organizations, programs or projects outside of the State of Alabama.

Application Procedures

The grant proposal should be prepared on 8 ½ x 11 inch paper, printed on one side only and signed by the organization’s chief executive officer. Only one copy is required and any attachments should be labeled. Please do not include videotapes or audiotapes, photographs, artwork or other bulky items. The proposal should include the following:

- A cover letter with agency name and address, the name and telephone number of the contact person, a one-paragraph summary of the project and the amount of funding requested.

- A brief paragraph on each:
 - The strengths of your organization.
 - The weaknesses of your organization.
 - The opportunities you have.
 - The threats you face.
- A brief summary of the history of the agency, its mission, its staff size and a list of the board of directors and/or trustees.
- The project's goals and objectives and how many will be served.
- Specific needs to be addressed by the project, activities planned and achieved so far.
- Project work plan, including a timeline for key activities.
- Project Evaluation—please define what a “successful” project would be, including what specific outcomes are planned, and describe how you plan to measure success. Describe how this information will be collected and measured by your organization.
- The budget for the project, a list of other contributions, a list of other funding sources to which the project has been submitted, letter of support if available and information about the future fund raising goals must also be included.
- A photocopy of the agency's Section 501 (c)(3) IRS determination letter.
- A copy of the agency's current operating budget.
- Your last audited financial statement.

Eligible grants will be reviewed with the following criteria:

- **Impact** – How are people better off?
- **Innovation** – How does this initiative stimulate innovation in problem solving?
- **Leverage** – Is anyone else funding this initiative?

Dates for grant submission

Grants may be submitted year round and will be considered at the appropriate meeting of The J.L. Bedsole Foundation Distribution Committee. The Distribution Committee meets in February, April, June, September and December of each year. Applications should be received on January 1, March 1, May 1, August 1 and November 1 for the Distribution Committee meeting the following month.

Grant applications should be mailed to:

The J.L. Bedsole Foundation
P.O. Box 1137
Mobile, AL 36633
Attn: Chris Lee

Any questions may be addressed by contacting The J.L. Bedsole Foundation at chrislee@jlbedsolefoundation.org.