



Impact Austin Spring 2024 Nonprofit Workshop January 9, 2024 | Questions & Answers from Event

- **If we apply for one initiative in the Spring for Community or Education and are denied, will we be able to apply in the next cycle for another initiative?**
 - Yes, applicants that are not awarded a grant can apply again in any future cycle. The next cycle will be Spring 2025. There will not be a fall cycle in 2024.
- **What is the eligibility cut-off for prior awardees?**
 - Please refer to this chart, which is also available on Impact Austin's website, www.impactaustin.org/grantmaking -- see [Impact Austin Grant Application Guidelines](#). If the grant cycle when you received an IA grant is not specifically listed, then you are eligible. If you still have concerns about your eligibility, reach out to us at grants@impactaustin.org.

Community Partner Eligibility (Month of Award)	Spring 2024	Spring 2025	Spring 2026
Spring Primary CP 2022 (June)	No	Yes	Yes
Spring Secondary CP 2022 (June)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fall Primary CP 2022 (December)	No	Yes	Yes
Fall Secondary CP 2022 (December)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Spring Primary CP 2023 (June)	No	No	Yes
Spring Secondary CP 2023 (June)	No	Yes	Yes
g3 2023 (May)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fall Primary CP 2023 (December)	No	No	Yes
Fall Secondary CP 2023 (December)	No	Yes	Yes

g3 Grant Eligibility:

1. An Impact Austin Community Partner can apply for a g3 grant at any time.
2. A g3 Community Partner can apply for an Impact Austin grant at any time.
3. A g3 Community Partner cannot apply for a new g3 grant the year following its award.

- **Can an organization apply for only the secondary grant?**
 - No. You must apply for the primary grant amount. The primary grant will be a restricted grant. If you are a finalist and don't receive the highest number of votes, then you will receive an unrestricted grant for the lower amount.



- **Could one organization apply in two categories simultaneously?**
 - No. Applicants may only apply in one focus area each grant cycle. Applicants in Spring 2024 must choose whether to apply for a Community or an Education grant.
- **Can a grant application be for both program and capacity needs?**
 - Yes, a grant applicant can submit a proposal that would fund a program/project, capacity building, or a combination of both.
- **You mentioned that organizations can apply with new or existing projects that last a specific amount of time. Does that mean that ongoing programs/projects are not favorable to Impact Austin?**
 - Both new and ongoing programs/projects are eligible for an Impact Austin grant. Both are viewed equally by Impact Austin. You must spend the Impact Austin grant within 24 months starting on the award date (no reimbursements of funds already expended).
- **What has been the average grant award in the past two years for the primary and secondary grantees?**
 - Please see <https://www.impactaustin.org/impact> for more information about recent grant awards. Grant amounts vary based on the number of Impact Austin members and have recently ranged from \$63,000 to \$90,000 for the primary grant and \$15,000 to \$22,000 for the secondary grant.
- **What are the deadlines and timeline for the spring grant applications?**
 - The Spring 2024 grants are open on January 12, close February 6, and will be awarded in June 2024.
- **Our development team always works together on a shared online workspace. Is there a template for the application questions (and any limitations on text) in advance so we can be working on it before we log into Impact Austin's system?**
 - The template for the application including word limits is available on Impact Austin's website, www.impactaustin.org/grantmaking -- see [Impact Austin Grant Application Guidelines](#).
- **Is a 990EZ postcard acceptable?**
 - Yes.
- **Will there be a period that the financial docs are reviewed?**
 - We will review the Initiative Budget for all applicants to check for the proper form and proper grant amount.
 - When the applications have been narrowed down to six per focus area, we will review the financial statements to be sure the proper statements have been submitted.
 - In both cases, we will reach out to the applicants and allow them to resubmit attachments curing their deficits. If you have questions about the required financial documents, please reach out to us at grants@impactaustin.org



- **Are you looking specifically to fund smaller or larger organizations, or is organizational budget size of no matter to Impact Austin?**
 - Impact Austin has funded both small and large organizations. The size of the organizational budget is not one of the criteria used in grant assessment. During the financial review, the relationship between the Impact Austin grant and the organization's total budget may be considered.
- **If we are awarded a grant, what is the term of a Community Partner's Impact Austin membership?**
 - Two years, regardless of the length of the grant awarded.
- **Are salaries considered part of the capacity grant; for example, hiring someone or covering the salary of a current staff member?**
 - Many, if not all, initiatives require staff to design and deliver the intended outcomes. For most nonprofits, administrative costs, including staffing, are the largest expenditures.
- **We have recently broken ground at our new facility and would be interested in seeking funding to cover something like outfitting the kitchen that will directly be utilized by our members. Is that something that would fall under general capital campaigns, construction, or renovation that you do not fund?**
 - It does sound like it would fall under that category unless it is related to a specific proposed initiative or can be linked directly to increased productivity or building more capacity for your organization.
- **I understand requests for fundraising are not acceptable, however, would fundraising technology (an upgraded software platform with added features) be considered as capacity building?**
 - Yes, technology that would make a significant impact on your organization would be considered capacity building.
- **Would something that has been funded in the past be considered again (an outside program evaluation)?**
 - Any new application is considered on its own merits by the Grant Review Committee for your selected focus area. Prior submissions are not part of the evaluation process.
- **What is the compliance requirement?**
 - If this is reference to a regulatory requirement, the organization must be a public charity, with a 501(c)(3) designation under the IRS code or fiscally sponsored by an authorized foundation.
 - We also have reporting requirements that will be listed in your grant agreement with Impact Austin:
 - Two-year restricted grants will require three interim reports (at six-month intervals) and one final report.
 - One-year restricted grants will require one interim report and one final report.
 - An unrestricted grant will require one final report.



- **Is a capacity grant a third grant or part of the Community and Education grants?**
 - A capacity grant is not a third grant, but a type of initiative that an organization may apply for under one of the two focus areas. An initiative proposed for either of these focus areas may be for a program/project, capacity building, or both.
- **Is the Education category more geared towards formal education vs. career training?**
 - Both types of applications are welcome.
- **Can you provide some examples of the types of initiatives that would be included in the Community area?**
 - Past grant recipients supported food accessibility, provided outdoor programs for at-risk youth, and cared for and mentored survivors of sex trafficking. The range is broad.
- **Some grant funders will request a minimum number of beneficiaries for the program. Is this a requirement for Impact Austin?**
 - There is no minimum or maximum number of beneficiaries for an Impact Austin grant.
- **Our physical address is not in Austin, but we service clients in Austin. Would we still be eligible?**
 - Yes, an organization is eligible if it serves clients in Travis, Hays, Williamson and/or Bastrop counties.
- **Can we collaborate with an organization located in another state as long as we service one or more eligible counties?**
 - Yes
- **Can some of the grant funds be used to provide services outside the 4-county area?**
 - Yes. However, we are looking for initiatives that make an impact in our area. Compared to other applications, yours may not stand out.
- **Is funding for a part-time grant writer considered capacity?**
 - Yes, if it is a component of a proposal that will significantly impact the capacity of an organization to execute its mission.
- **We're a small non-profit that runs an affordable housing program. Our grant request would be for rehabilitation/repair funds for our existing housing. Is this prohibited under the "No general construction or renovation" requests?**
 - If your repairs are part of the ongoing program, they would be eligible.
- **Can you note the average number of applications you get in each area per cycle?**
 - They vary widely by focus area and cycle, ranging from 25 to 50.



- **Is the Girls Giving Grants separate from Impact Austin's Grant?**
 - Yes, you can apply for a g3 grant in addition to an Impact Austin Grant. Applications for g3, which funds programs and projects that positively impact the lives of children and youth, open in October. Awards are made in April. The grant amount varies and will be \$8500 in April 2024.
- **Will the grant amounts be announced when the application window opens?**
 - Yes, the grant amounts for each focus area were announced on January 12, 2024.
- **Is it more impactful to apply for a specific program, or would a general initiative also be a strong candidate? i.e., Quality of Life Initiative with multiple programs falling under that initiative?**
 - We consider programs or projects versus capacity building equally. We look at the expected outcomes and impact the initiative is expected to achieve. You should be able to show how you will measure success and the impact on our community.
- **If the budget for the initiative is more than the grant amount, do you want the entire budget, or just the budget for the grant?**
 - We are just asking for you to tell us how you plan to spend the Impact Austin grant funds. If it is a larger project, you can elaborate on Question 4 in the grant application.
- **If an organization has only one program, can they include general operating expenses in support of that program?**
 - The primary grant already has 20% designated as unrestricted funds. We understand that operations are involved in every initiative. Our initiative budget includes some standard line items, but you can add specific items. Your application would need to show the expected benefit to the community. If the benefit is more for the organization, then we would consider your application as capacity building.
- **Tell me more about the video. What is the purpose of the video? What criteria is used to evaluate it?**
 - During the grant review process, your application is reviewed in detail by only about 30 Impact Austin members. Once you are selected as a Finalist, we prepare a Finalists Packet to distribute to our 300+ membership.
 - The Finalists Packet includes a five-minute video.
 - This is a **low-tech type of video** – video on a smart phone.
 - Film at about 12-inches.
 - The video should have a neutral background and no “props” are allowed.
 - This is an opportunity to tell your organization’s story verbally to the Impact Austin Membership. This is also an opportunity to emotionally appeal to Membership who will vote on their top application.
- **Can I upload and save some documents, then come back later and add more? Can we include photos?**
 - As you work on your application you will save as draft. This will allow you to make changes as necessary. Once you have completed your application and verified all attachments, you will submit the application. You will not be allowed to make changes once you have submitted the application. There



isn't a place to submit pictures in the application. If you make it to the Site Visit, you can share them at that time.

- **We have been entirely a volunteer run organization for five years. We have a small budget, but we are looking to expand our impact and add programs which will require hiring an executive director. Would and ED salary fit into capacity building or is it more appropriate to request funding for specific program delivery.**
 - We understand it takes people to run an organization so salaries are normally a big part of the initiative budgets. If you believe hiring an Executive Director will help you better achieve your organizations specific goals, then a program grant would apply. If you were planning to expend the funds on an Executive Director search, then a capacity grant would apply. Regardless, it is the same application for either.
- **What does the reporting look like for both primary and secondary grants?**
 - Reporting requirements that will be listed in your grant agreement with Impact Austin:
 - Two-year restricted grants will require three interim reports (at six-month intervals) and one final report.
 - One-year restricted grants will require one interim report and one final report.
 - An unrestricted grant will require one final report.
- **Can 100% of grant funds in an application be used for hiring partial FTEs for capacity building? We are currently 100% volunteer run and need additional program support to support community need.**
 - Yes. We understand it takes people to run an organization so salaries for staff are normally a big part of the initiative budgets.
- **What if we don't have an actual site? Can the site visit be done at one of the places where we offer our services?**
 - Yes, you can host at an alternative site.
- **For the site visit, if our financial person is remote, should we just do a virtual visit? Or could we have an in-person site visit and then a separate virtual one?**
 - You can request a virtual site visit or add the remote person on virtually.