



INVEST. ENGAGE. ADVANCE.

LASVP 2007 Grant Program Guidelines for Environmental Nonprofits

Overview

Los Angeles Social Venture Partners (LASVP) is a membership organization featuring an innovative, highly-engaged approach to philanthropy. Our Partners are individual donors who bring a variety of professional skills and expertise from the private and nonprofit sectors. LASVP seeks to effect social change in Los Angeles by supporting the efforts of local nonprofit organizations. LASVP Partners invest time, expertise and money to create capacity-building partnerships with innovative nonprofit organizations and the social entrepreneurs who run them.

The Partners have chosen the environment as one focus area for our 2007 grantmaking. We are seeking environmental nonprofit organizations in Los Angeles County that deliver superior results through powerful ideas and passionate leaders.

LASVP will make an initial grant to 1 or 2 organizations with the intent of establishing a longer-term relationship (typically 3-4 years). During the first year of funding, the relationship will be carefully reviewed and evaluated to determine the extent of and need for further support. First-year grants are anticipated to range from \$20,000 to \$25,000, but could be more or less based upon the organization's needs, budget and goals.

In addition to cash grants, LASVP provides strategic consulting assistance to help build the organizational capacity, management, and infrastructure of grantees. LASVP works in partnership *with* nonprofits to improve their ability to deliver effective programs and fulfill their mission. We seek organizations that can benefit from and are willing to embrace a multiple-year partnership that includes hands-on involvement by LASVP Partners, regular self-assessment and measurement of results.

Partners Offer Volunteer Assistance in Areas such as:

- Strategic Planning
- Leadership Development
- Board Development and Governance
- Financial Management
- Fundraising and Revenue Development
- Marketing and Public Relations
- Program Evaluation and Performance Management
- Information Technology
- Human Resources
- Real Estate
- Legal Guidance

Current Investment Cycle

For our environmental investment cycle, we are interested in supporting organizations whose programs will deliver tangible results in Los Angeles County within a 3-4 year timeframe. For this reason, we are not inclined to select nonprofits solely focused on advocacy, policy development, or research. More information on our selection criteria will be shared at the Grantseeker's Workshop on August 6th.

Guiding Principles

LASVP supports organizations that:

- Have a clearly articulated mission, a strong, effective leadership team, and a long-term vision for the organization
- Seek to expand, replicate or otherwise leverage impactful programs based on proven results
- Demonstrate the commitment and ability to build and strengthen organizational capacity, evaluate programs and measure results in order to achieve their mission
- Show a track record of successful collaboration and/or partnership that indicates the organization's ability to embrace and benefit from LASVP's mentorship and professional services as well as its financial support

Funding Criteria

- Applicants must be classified as a 501(c)(3) public charity
- Organizations must have operations based in Los Angeles County, strategic capacity-building needs that would fit with our giving model, and local staff members who can utilize our volunteering and mentoring resources on those initiatives
- Organizations should have ≥ 2 years of operating history and an annual budget of \geq \$250,000
- Financial grants are requested and used to enhance the organization's capacity for long term-effectiveness and sustainability
- Grant requests will not be considered for auctions or fundraising events, debt reduction, endowment funds, capital campaigns, litigation or legal expenses
- Applications are accepted on an invitation-only basis, though we will consider inquiries if the organization fits our criteria

LASVP will not consider requests from individuals and organizations that discriminate on the basis of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or national origin. LASVP will not entertain requests from religious organizations for sectarian purposes, sports teams and political or lobbying organizations. Unrestricted funds granted by LASVP may not be used for any LASVP "Funding Criteria" prohibited purposes.

Grant Process and Letters of Interest

To be considered for support, organizations must attend a Grantseeker's Workshop on August 6, 2007 from 10am – 12 pm, where we will outline the grant process and provide more information about LASVP. An RSVP is required and attendance is limited to two people per organization.

Those attending the Workshop will be eligible to submit a Letter of Interest ("LOI"). This letter must not exceed three pages in length for Sections I and II, and must have only one attachment as requested for Section III. It must include the following information:

- I. *Information about your organization:*
 - a) Organization (including contact name, address, email and telephone number)
 - b) Year founded and first year of operation
 - c) Mission and main activities
 - d) Geographic area served and target population, if applicable
 - e) Total annual operating budget and summary of funding sources
 - f) Total staff size and brief description of the leadership team, including management and board
 - g) Some aspect that makes your organization compelling or unique
- II. *What might our partnership look like?*
 - a) What is the specific activity or focus area(s) for which you would seek LASVP funding? Is this a new or ongoing effort? What is the amount requested and total budget for the project?

- b) LASVP invests in capacity development; briefly outline how you would involve LASVP partners in supporting your organization's growth and development.
- c) LASVP utilizes an outcomes-based funding approach; please describe intended organizational outcomes over 3-4 years and how you would measure success.

III. Tax-Exempt Status

- a) Include as an attachment (e.g., pdf) a copy of the organization's IRS determination letter. If you do not have an electronic version, this document must be mailed to LASVP, P.O. Box 5762, Playa del Rey, CA 90296, and postmarked by 8/20/07.

Any questions regarding Letters of Interest can be directed to info@lasvp.org or 310.281.7509. **Letters of Interest must be submitted by Monday, August 20, 2007 via e-mail to info@lasvp.org.**

LASVP will acknowledge receipt of all Letters of Interest within a few business days. After evaluating LOIs, LASVP will invite full grant proposals from a select number of applicants. LASVP will not accept unsolicited proposals.

Key Dates for 2007 Grant Cycle

(Subject to change)

Workshop	August 6
Letter of Interest Due	Monday August 20
Full Proposals Invited	Monday September 10
Full Proposals Due	Monday October 8
Interviews Held	Between October 15 – Nov 2
Finalists Selected	Week of Nov 5
Site Visits with Finalists	November 12 – 30
Grant Decisions Finalized	Friday December 14