



*A Community of Engaged Philanthropists Contributing Time, Expertise and Money*

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## **LASVP 2005 Grant Program Guidelines**

### **Overview**

Los Angeles Social Venture Partners (LASVP) was formed in the summer of 2004 as 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 tremendous efforts of local nonprofit organizations. LASVP Partners invest time, expertise and money to create capacity-building partnerships with talented, committed nonprofit organizations and social entrepreneurs.

The Partners have chosen charter school education as the priority for the 2005 grant cycle, and will support organizations that are operating, planning or supporting charter schools in Los Angeles. We are seeking organizations that are delivering superior public education through powerful ideas and passionate entrepreneurs so that children – especially those underserved – have the opportunity to succeed in the 21st century.

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. The grants will range in size from \$25,000 to \$40,000 per year, 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 are seeking 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 the Following Areas:**

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

### **Guiding Principles:**

LASVP supports organizations that:

- Are seeking to launch, expand or replicate innovative programs in the Los Angeles region;
- Have a clearly articulated mission, strong, committed leadership, and a long term vision for the organization;
- Understand the importance of building and strengthening organizational capacity in order to achieve their mission;
- Will benefit from and embrace LASVP's mentorship and professional services as well as its financial support; and
- Are committed to evaluating their programs and measuring results.

### **Funding Criteria:**

- Programs must be in Los Angeles County
- Applicants must be classified as a 501(c)(3) public charity, a public school or school district (*Charter schools with 501(c)(3) status may apply.*)
- Grants are made 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

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:**

To be considered for support, organizations must attend a Grantseeker's Workshop on February 1, 2005 which will outline the grant process and provide grantseekers with more information about LASVP. An RSVP is required and we ask that you limit attendance to no more than two people per organization.

Those attending the Workshop will be invited to submit a Letter of Interest ("LOI"). This letter must not exceed three pages in length and have no attachments. It must include the following information:

- I. *Information about your organization:*
  - a) Organization (including contact name, address, email and telephone number)
  - b) Year founded; year received 501(c)(3) status
  - c) Mission and main activities
  - d) Target population and geographic area served
  - e) Total annual operating budget and summary of funding sources
  - f) Brief description of the leadership team
  - 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 with selected non-profit organizations; briefly outline how you would potentially involve LASVP mentors in supporting your organization's growth and development.
- c) LASVP utilizes an outcomes-based funding approach; please describe intended/desired organizational outcomes and how you would measure success.

Any questions regarding Letters of Interest can be directed to [info@lasvp.org](mailto:info@lasvp.org) or 310.281.7509.

Letters of Interest must be submitted via e-mail or regular mail (postmarked) by **Friday, February 18, 2005**. Please send to Diane Helfrey, Investment Committee Co-Chair, Los Angeles Social Venture Partners, P.O. Box 505, Pasadena, California 91102-0505 or by email to [info@lasvp.org](mailto:info@lasvp.org).

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

**Key Dates for Grant Cycle**

Workshop	February 1, 2005
Letter of Interest Due	February 18, 2005
Full Proposals Invited	March 11, 2005
Full Proposals Due	April 8, 2005
Site Visits with Finalists	May 2 – 16, 2005
Grant Decisions Announced	June 1, 2005