

Dear Economic Development/Community Representative:

Thank you for your interest in Golden West's Economic & Community Development Grant Program. For over 20 years, Golden West has committed funds for economic and community development in the areas we serve. We are proud to support organizations working to improve economic viability and quality of life in our service area.

We place emphasis on projects that create or sustain jobs within a community, as well as programs which improve local economies and quality of life. Some of the general application guidelines for the Golden West Economic & Community Development Program are as follows:

- In order to qualify for funding, grant application forms must be completed in full.
- Preference will be given to organizations registered as a 501(c)(3) in the state of South Dakota.
- Golden West has the right to ask that funds be returned if not used for the requested purpose.
- Applicants should allow a minimum of six to eight weeks for a response to the submitted request.
- Organizations may only receive one grant per calendar year. Organizations that apply but are denied funding may reapply for a different project.

Selection Criteria

As stated above, Golden West is interested in projects that create or sustain jobs in the communities we serve. The selection committee will favor applications that work toward that goal. Secondary to job creation, the committee will also consider applications that improve the quality of life in the community. Examples of projects that will be considered include:

- Job creation projects
- Creation and/or support of active economic development organizations
- Community betterment and quality of life projects, particularly those which can demonstrate specific impact on those served
- Research projects which assist with key community development issues including housing, business development, infrastructure, population trends and workforce issues
- Community and economic development leadership programs
- Projects focusing on technology education and/or implementing technology to positively enhance the community, county and/or region
- Tourism projects with a direct economic benefit

Disqualifiers

Golden West acknowledges the important role of political parties, religious or spiritual organizations, and other private endeavors. Still, such entities do not fall within the primary purpose of this program unless their project specifically addresses the above criteria and is inclusive of all community members.

The following groups and/or projects are typically ineligible to apply for Golden West's economic/community development program:

- Cities or Townships (may qualify under specific circumstances)
- Political parties
- Individuals or for-profit businesses
- Religious or spiritual organizations
- Third-party fundraising organizations (may qualify under specific circumstances)
- Seminars, workshops, telethons (may qualify under specific circumstances)

Golden West closely scrutinizes all grant proposals for discriminatory practices and will not fund grants that discriminate based on race, color, creed, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, or family status.

Application Timeline

Golden West awards funds on a regular basis. Please submit your application well in advance of when funds are needed.

Applicants should allow a minimum of six to eight weeks (after submission) for a response to their request.

Application Process

Please complete the application process by:

- 1) reviewing both the general application guidelines and selection criteria outlined in this letter,
- 2) answering all of the questions found on the application form, and
- 3) including all requested attachments, including a cover letter on organizations letterhead, signed by an authorized member of the organization.

Golden West continues to value the impact communities have on the economy and quality of life in rural South Dakota, and we look forward to reviewing your application. If you have questions about the program, please contact us at (605) 719-3509.