



Picture-It-Painted Program Application Guidelines and Procedures

About the Picture-It-Painted Program

Through Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF), tax exempt nonprofit organizations and units/agencies of local, state and federal government in southern Minnesota can apply to receive free paint products for various restoration/beautification projects. The Picture-It-Painted program is intended to encourage local volunteer involvement in the painting process. Picture-It-Painted is administered by SMIF in partnership with the Minneapolis-based Valspar Corporation, which generously donates the paint products.

Eligibility Criteria

All projects **must exhibit**:

- ◆ Visual impact
- ◆ Current/intended public use of the structure
- ◆ Volunteer participation and support

Some projects **that qualify** for an award of free paint might include, but are not limited to, those involving:

- ◆ Historic buildings, structures, or landmarks
- ◆ Facilities for senior or disabled citizens
- ◆ Community centers or other public buildings
- ◆ Murals or other visual impact projects

Projects **that would not qualify** for a grant include those dealing with:

- ◆ Denominational churches or religious organizations
- ◆ Routine city maintenance
- ◆ School or childcare projects with the exception of mural projects
- ◆ Non-permanent structures
- ◆ Pavement
- ◆ Public buildings that require membership or fee for access
- ◆ Privately owned facilities

All facets of eligibility must be met, including the use of volunteers. Projects using a contractor to actually complete the work are not eligible. Muralists/artists who assist in the design and application are acceptable. Paint requests must be between 10-100 gallons. Valspar reserves the right to limit paint product amounts awarded.

The application process is not intended to be tedious; however, **it is important that you read and follow instructions and complete the application form precisely.**

If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Heien, Grants Associate, at 507-455-3215 or jenniferh@smifoundation.org for clarification.

Application Guidelines

Geographic Area

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation considers applications from organizations with main or branch offices located in the 20-county area or from organizations dedicated to serving within the area.

The counties are:

Blue Earth	Fillmore	Le Sueur	Olmsted	Wabasha
Brown	Freeborn	Martin	Rice	Waseca
Dodge	Goodhue	Mower	Sibley	Watsonwan
Faribault	Houston	Nicollet	Steele	Winona

Requirements

- ◆ Local volunteer participation is required. We do not consider Sentencing to Service (STS) to be a volunteer organization as it is typically a court-ordered alternative to jail time and/or fines.
- ◆ Paint is for permanent architectural structures only. Murals attached to buildings and paint for non-permanent structures are not eligible.
- ◆ Applications and project photos must be received by March 5, 2012. Awards will be announced on March 26, 2012.
- ◆ Photos must be affixed to a sheet of paper or inside a plastic sleeve and properly identified. Do not send loose photos or slides.
- ◆ Recipients are required to meet in person with a Valspar representative in April (selected projects will be notified of the specific date after the grant award announcement) to discuss the details of their project and order paint products. If unable to attend this meeting, there will be a meeting in each of the six Minnesota Initiative Foundation areas: Bemidji, Duluth, Alexandria, Hutchinson, Little Falls, and Owatonna (please contact the Grants Associate for specific dates and locations). Recipients must pick up their paint products in the Twin Cities area in May. Please consider travel costs before completing the application.
- ◆ The Project Completion Report and photos of the completed project must be provided to SMIF **no later than October 31, 2012**. Failure to submit proper documentation by the deadline will jeopardize the organization's possibility of receiving further grants from SMIF.

Application Process

Applications are available at www.smifoundation.org, click on "Applications." Return completed application form by March 5, 2012 via email to jenniferh@smifoundation.org or mail to:

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation
Jennifer Heien
Grants Associate
PO Box 695
Owatonna, MN 55060

All applicants will be contacted via email or telephone to confirm receipt of their application. An internal committee will review the full applications before they are sent to Valspar for the final decision. A press release will be issued highlighting recipients and their projects.

For questions, call Jennifer Heien, Grants Associate, at 507-455-3215, or jenniferh@smifoundation.org.

SMIF is a member of the Minnesota Council of Foundations and adheres to the Council of Foundation's Statement of Principles and Practices. SMIF's annual report is available on-line at www.smifoundation.org