

Here are a couple of things to be aware of when applying for funding

1) **Eligibility** Applicants must be either:

- A 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization as designated by the IRS **OR**
- An exempt governmental unit (for example school, city or county entity)

OR find a Fiscal sponsor:

If you are applying for a grant and your organization does not have 501(c)(3) tax exempt status, you must have a fiscal sponsor. The name on the application cover sheet must be of the fiscal sponsor and their 501(c)(3) verification letter must be included. In addition to the listed application package items, you will need a board resolution from the fiscal sponsor indicating that their organization is willing to take full responsibility for the use of the grant and subsequent reporting requirements.

2) Transparency and fairness are essential in our grant making decisions. The Montana Community Foundation has had the SCF include this information in our bylaws. Below, please see that section of our regulations.

OUR BYLAWS: Section G **Conflict of Interest Policy**

1. A member of the Advisory Committee shall disclose to the committee any material interest which the member directly or indirectly has in any person

or entity which is a party to a transaction under consideration of the Advisory Committee. The interested member shall abstain from voting on the transaction, provided, however that the member's presence may be counted in determining whether a quorum is present for purposes of acting in the conduct of committee business. The conflict of interest shall be documented in the minutes covering the meeting. Advisory Committee **members shall avoid even the appearance of** impropriety, undue influence, or favoritism.

- a. Approval of conflict of interest transaction may be granted as long as the material facts of conflict have been disclosed to the committee, or are known to the members of the committee, and the members approving the transaction in good faith reasonably believe that the transaction is fair. A member with a conflict of interest shall abstain from voting on that issue.