



FUNDING CRITERIA

Established in 1990, in the wake of Hurricane Hugo, [St. Croix Foundation for Community Development](#) has served as the conduit of over \$43 million private and public sector dollars invested into the U.S. Virgin Islands. Over the years, by recognizing education as a critical component to success in any and all efforts toward equitable and sustainable community development; the St. Croix Foundation has offered a diverse portfolio of grants, scholarships, and Territory-wide programming to provide opportunities for students and organizations wishing to improve outcomes for teachers, students, and community.

2021 Sprint to Excellence Education Relief Grant

The 2021 Sprint to Excellence Relief Grant Fund, a partnership between St. Croix Foundation and the Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands through the Federal CARES Act, was established in 2021 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Fund's purpose is to provide grant support through September 2022 to "nonprofit organizations in the St. Croix district engaged in providing educational programs and projects including but not limited to interdisciplinary academic support, social-emotional learning, literacy, bridge programming, before and after school programs, summer programs, tutoring, and/or other interventions which support students and staff in the learning process or improve learning environments."

Grant Cycle & Reporting Requirements

Grants will be awarded by the St. Croix Foundation Grants Review Committee in accordance with established policies and procedures for grantmaking and through a selection process that prioritizes equity, academic enrichment, and culture, arts and heritage. Details on this grant cycle include the following:

- Applications will be accepted beginning October 29, 2021.
- All applications are due by November 19, 2021.
- Applicants will be notified of decisions by December 3, 2021
- A maximum of \$100,000 will be awarded to no more than seven organizations/projects.
 - Application requests with a projected budget over \$100,000 must identify and disclose additional funding sources to support the project.
- Awards will be distributed in installments on a quarterly basis contingent upon approved reports submitted to the Foundation.
- Quarterly reports are required for all projects beginning three months after the first disbursement. Upon completion and approval of each report, the next disbursement can be drawn down. A final report will be due three months after the last disbursement is received, and St. Croix Foundation may conduct site visits throughout the award cycle
- The preapplication as well as pre and post evaluations and results will be required to track and report on student progress to ascertain baseline states and monitor progress.

Criteria & Eligibility Requirements

Eligible nonprofits must be currently providing services in the St. Croix District and must meet the following criteria:

- Be a 501(c)3 organization registered with the Internal Revenue Services (IRS) **OR** operating as a sponsored project of a 501(c)3 organization;

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- Be a registered nonprofit organization in the Virgin Islands for three (3) years or more with a current Letter of Good Standing from the Lieutenant Governor’s Office of the U.S. Virgin Islands; OR partner with an organization that meets the above criteria;
- Demonstrate collaboration with other nonprofit organizations.

Program Eligibility

Awards will be granted to organizations and/or projects which are (or will) offer emergency education relief to students in the St. Croix District that improves student and/or staff success through relevant and rigorous enrichment opportunities through September 30, 2022. Applicants must demonstrate educational programming and projects that include the following:

- Literacy
- Interdisciplinary academic support
- Social-emotional learning
- Bridge programming
- Before and after school programs
- Summer programs
- Tutoring
- Teacher prep/professional development

****** St. Croix Foundation also prioritizes interventions that support students and staff in the learning process or improve learning environments, including programs that have the following fundamental components:

- Cultural Heritage and the Arts
- Nurtures the whole child
- Model learning environments that include accessible virtual components
- Research, qualitative and quantitative data
- Mentoring
- Innovative enrichment opportunities
- Collaboration between entities to leverage resources

**** Covid-19 Accommodations**

Given the ongoing nature of the Covid-19 pandemic, St. Croix Foundation will require grant applicants to indicate how they intend to uphold Covid-19 safety precautions in any in-person programming activities to ensure the health and wellbeing of the children and staff involved are considered and made a priority. Programs must demonstrate reasonable accommodations for the marriage of virtual learning, access and learning disabilities.

Submission Requirements & Recommendations

All applications are due November 19, 2021 and must be submitted via the Foundation’s online portal at: <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=scf>. Applicants will be required to upload the following:

- 1) **Proposal** (please be concise)
 - a) Organizational background and overview

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- b) Project
- i) Name of the project
 - ii) Project Description: please demonstrate alignment between the program/project and areas in Program Eligibility above. If the project is for an existing service/program, please explain the past outcomes (i.e., In 2016, 8 out of 10 youth who participated in the after-school program improved on their reading skills as measured by pre and post-tests).
 - iii) Who the project serves—*may include a statement of need and/or the following:*
 - How participants are selected
 - Number of participants
 - Private, public, parochial, home school affiliation
 - Grade level
 - Academic proficiency (if students)
 - Income level of participants
 - iv) Activities that will be conducted
 - v) Covid-19 safety plan (1 page maximum)
 - vi) Goals/objectives: include 3-5 objectives with at least two being measurable
 - vii) Project timeline: detailed timeline with scope of work/ program activities and evaluations on a quarterly basis
 - viii) Evaluation: include how and when the project and/or participants will be evaluated; please include the evaluation tools that the project will use to track student progress. It may assist you to remember that awardees will be asked to submit quarterly reports for phased disbursements of the grants and pre/posttest data will be required.
 - ix) Budget and budget narrative: Applicants are asked to use and upload [the project budget form](#) with pre-determined line items. Please use the tabs in the template to provide (1) a total projected budget for the program and (2) projected budgets with quarterly breakdowns to align with disbursements. Please include a brief budget narrative in the proposal. If the applicant would like to include a more detailed budget *in addition* to the budget template, please include this in the uploaded proposal.
 - x) Project collaborations: please list the nonprofits/organizations you are partnering with for this effort; include roles and responsibilities.
 - xi) Principals of the project, including:
 - Project Manager
 - Financial/Accounting Manager
 - Executive Director/President
 - Consultants
- 1) **IRS Determination Letter/ Letter from Sponsoring Organization if Fiscal Sponsored Project**
 - 2) **Letter of good standing from Lt. Governor Office**
 - 3) **Proof of Liability Insurance**
 - 4) **Organization Annual Operating Budget**

Recommendations

- St. Croix Foundation strongly recommends applicants visit the application portal in advance to prepare logins and accounts and/or begin viewing and preparing applications.

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- ****If your organization has already established an account and you cannot remember your login information or do not know if you have an account, contact the Foundation directly before opening a new account.**
- If your organization has any questions or needs assistance, please reach out to the St. Croix Foundation as soon as possible with your concerns.

St. Croix Foundation Does Not Fund:

- Organizations that discriminate on the basis of religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender expression, race, ethnicity, political beliefs, or disabilities; specific religious activities or beliefs or organizations that require adherence to a specific religion or belief
- Lobbying or political activities
- Any commercial business purposes
- Any litigation that is underway, contemplated, or completed, or organizations that use litigation as a primary tool to carry out its mission
- Private foundations, Type III supporting organizations, or other organizations that require expenditure responsibility by the Foundation
- Endowments, special events, or annual funds
- Direct grants to individuals
- Construction or repairs to privately owned home offices or structures

Contact

For information or any questions throughout the application process, please feel free to contact St. Croix Foundation staff, Lilli Cox (lcox@stxfoundation.org) or Essence Carter (ecarter@stxfoundation.org), or phone the Foundation directly at 340.773.9898.

***Note.** To help reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus, St. Croix Foundation staff is working remotely at the present time.*

St. Croix Foundation for Community Development
1023 Market Street
Christiansted, VI 00820
www.stxfoundation.org
340.773.9898

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