

Science Discovery on Main Street Grant Program

Terms and Conditions

Applications for the Science Discovery on Main Street Grant Program (“Program”) will be accepted, for this application period, from Wednesday, November 13, 2024, at 10:00 am Central Time through Friday, January 4, 2024, at 11:59 pm Central Time (“CT”) (“Application Period”).

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Science Discovery on Main Street grant program provides funding and support to help Main Street communities research, identify, and celebrate their unique scientific assets or history through partnerships and programming. The grant program will award twelve (12) Discovery Grants of \$12,500 each to selected rural National Main Street Center (“Main Street America” or “MSA”) accredited and affiliate communities. Main Street America is offering this program through a generous grant from Simons Foundation International administered by the Simons Foundation’s Science, Society & Culture division. The Science Discovery on Main Street grant program aims to help Main Street communities uncover and leverage their unique science assets, history, and features towards building local pride and creating engaging local attractions and activities.

Through the Science Discovery on Main Street grant program, communities will receive professional support to explore science engagement activities as Promotions. By connecting the Main Street Approach and science engagement, this program will help communities take steps toward celebrating what makes their community unique and toward attracting visitors through science-inspired events and activities.

The Simons Foundation supports efforts that enable people to reimagine and expand their relationship with science outside the traditional classroom setting. The creation of plans for engagement activities may be part of a larger event, series of events, or festival your Main Street is planning for your district or new activities.

Rural Main Street Communities Designated as Accredited and Affiliates where “rural” is defined as having a population of 50,000 people or less, may apply for one (1) of twelve (12) Discovery Grants of \$12,500. Discovery Grants are planning grants. Discovery Grants will be used to:

- Complete asset mapping and a community engagement process to research, explore, and identify local science assets, with support from planning and science engagement experts.
- Devise plans to create new, potential creative signature events and community engagement activities with partners that celebrate and invite others to explore your unique science assets.

For Discovery Grants, recipients must present information to Main Street America on their preferred consultant for feedback and approval before entering a contract.

After the Discovery Grant period, there will be an opportunity for up to seven (7) communities to receive Implementation Grants to put their plans into action.

Grantees will also receive additional 1-on-1 technical assistance; participate in cohort learning and connection opportunities; and receive support for one (1) person to attend the Main Street Now conference in Philadelphia in April 2025 for a special required convening of Science Discovery on Main Street grant recipients to learn, network, and share ideas.

This program is designed for Main Street communities to prepare and plan to actively engage residents in science as part of their community programming and it will offer an opportunity for selected communities to directly connect with other Main Street communities across the country researching and exploring science assets and ideas for related programming in their districts and communities.

Examples of science assets communities could leverage or discover through the grant program include, but are not limited to:

- Historical scientific events or innovations with scientific significance
- Birthplaces or homes of famous (or lesser known) scientists
- Unique natural phenomena (e.g., rare local flowers and flora, unique local tree species, bioluminescence)
- Special geographical features (e.g. unique trails or vistas, geological sites of significance)
- Agricultural products with unique biological aspects
- Unique opportunities or ideal conditions for scientific activities (e.g., dark sky communities for star gazing and solar observation)
- Items to be determined. For this grant program, a community does not have to have an identified science asset. In fact, we ask that all participating communities go through the Discovery process – even if they have one already in mind.

The judging panel will be looking for applicants that are committed to the discovery of science assets and committed to fostering opportunities for learning and discovery for residents beyond the grant period.

ELIGIBILITY: For the purposes of this Application Period of the Program, eligible MSA communities are those (i) that are a designated Main Street America community with a status of affiliate or accredited and an active membership in good standing, (ii) that are located in a rural area (population of 50,000 or less); (iii) that demonstrate a commitment to the process of researching and exploring existing or known science assets and also potential new, unknown science assets in their community; (iv) that demonstrate a commitment to planning science

engagement opportunities for residents through their Main Street organization and/or by leveraging partnerships; and (v) that have an annual operating budget of less than \$1 million.

Please refer to the Program webpage <https://mainstreet.org/about/partner-collaborations/the-simons-foundation-science-discovery-on-main-street> or www.mainstreet.org/sciencediscovery for the application and the list of eligibility criteria and communities. Active membership in the National Main Street Center (“Sponsor”) with current accredited or affiliate designation and membership in good standing is required to be eligible for the Program. The Program is subject to all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations, and government-imposed rules and requirements. By participating, each participant agrees to abide by these Terms and Conditions, the terms of any grant agreements issued, and decisions of the Sponsor and the Simons Foundation, which shall be final and binding in all respects relating to this Program.

HOW TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION: During the Application Period, to submit an application, visit <https://mainstreet.org/about/partner-collaborations/the-simons-foundation-science-discovery-on-main-street> and follow the directions provided to complete and submit the application form, in its entirety, in accordance with the instructions provided (“Application”). Limit one (1) Application per eligible organization. All Applications become the sole property of the Sponsor and information from the Applications will be provided to the Simons Foundation.

By submitting an Application, the applicant represents and warrants that the Application conforms to these Terms and Conditions and agrees that the Sponsor and/or the Simons Foundation, in their sole discretion, may disqualify the Application for any reason, including, without limitation, if the Sponsor determines, in its sole discretion, that the Application fails to conform to these Terms and Conditions in any way or otherwise contains unacceptable content.

GRANT RECIPIENT ACTIVITIES, REPORTING, AND USE OF FUNDS:

Grantees will also receive additional 1-on-1 technical assistance; participate in cohort learning and connection opportunities; and receive support for one (1) person to attend the Main Street Now conference in Philadelphia in April 2025 for a required special convening of Science Discovery on Main Street recipients to learn, network, and share ideas. Grant funds may not be used for political or election activities or to host fundraising events. Events, programming, and/or activities created must be free, low cost or no-cost, and/or not revenue generating. A final report on grant use is due to Main Street America on Thursday, August 28, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. Report format and further instructions will be provided after grantees are selected.

PUBLICITY GRANT/USE OF ENTRIES: If selected as a grant recipient, the applicant hereby grants to the Sponsor, the Simons Foundation, and their respective designees, successors, licensees, and assigns, a nonexclusive license to reproduce, distribute, display, perform, create derivative works based upon, or otherwise exploit the Application and all elements embodied therein, in whole or in part, and/or any reports submitted by the applicant, and all elements embodied therein, in whole or in part, including, without limitation, the names, biographical information,

cities and states of residence, photos, videos, quotes and statements (in written or recorded oral form), and likenesses, in any manner, in any and all media, now known or hereafter devised, throughout the world and in perpetuity, for advertising, promotional, and other purposes, without further compensation, notification, or permission. Applicant agrees that Indemnitees (defined below) are not responsible for any unauthorized use by third parties of the Application, the grant agreement, and/or reports submitted by the applicant. Neither the Sponsor nor the Simons Foundation have any obligation to make use of the rights granted herein.

JUDGING: Applications will be reviewed based on:

- **Community Need**
 - Demonstrate strong need for funding, based on organization budget and community demographics
- **Commitment to Exploring Science & Science Engagement for your Main Street**
 - Commitment to prioritizing focus on residents and science education in addition to attracting tourists
- **Sustainability & Feasibility**
 - Commitment to science activities beyond the initial grant
 - Organization is ready and has a committed person or person(s) ready to participate
 - Staff / coordinator commitment / organizational commitment
- **Partners, Engagement, Resources**
 - Open to working with partners (existing or, if needed, additional provided partners)
 - Open to working with science institutions, scientists, and/or science engagement experts

The judging scores for any Application in any phase, including, without limitation, during or at the conclusion of the Program will not be released.

GRANT RECIPIENT NOTIFICATION: Potential grant recipients will be notified by telephone, mail, and/or email and will be required to execute and return a grant acceptance form within ten (10) business days of the date of issuance. If a potential grant recipient does not respond to the initial notification within the time period stated, all required documents are not returned within the specified time period, a grant notification is returned as undeliverable, or a potential grant recipient is not in compliance with these Terms and Conditions, the potential grant will be forfeited and, at the Sponsor's discretion, a substitute from among all eligible finalists may be selected.

GRANTS: USD \$12,500 check for the Discovery Grant. Any and all federal, state, and local taxes are the sole responsibility of the grant recipient. Grant recipients may not substitute, assign, or transfer a grant. Limit one (1) \$12,500 Program grant per organization. Upon submitting a final

report and submitting an implementation plan, up to seven (7) communities will receive Implementation Grant funds.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY: By participating, each applicant agrees, to the fullest extent permitted by law, to release, indemnify, discharge, and hold harmless the Sponsor, the Simons Foundation, and their respective parents, affiliates, subsidiaries, and advertising and promotion agencies, and the respective officers, directors, shareholders, employees, agents, and representatives of the foregoing (collectively, "Indemnitees") from any and all injuries, liability, losses, and damages of any kind to persons, including, without limitation, death, or property resulting, in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, from applicant's participation in the Program or any Program-related activity, the acceptance of the grant, the applicant's breach of any representation, warranty, covenant or agreement in the Application and/or grant agreement, any act or omission of the applicant, its officers, directors, employees, or agents, in applying for or accepting the grant, in expending or applying the proceeds of the grant, or in carrying out the Grant Program project, and/or the Sponsor's or the Simons Foundation's use of the rights granted herein.

GENERAL CONDITIONS: Indemnitees are not responsible for lost, late, incomplete, damaged, inaccurate, stolen, delayed, misdirected, undelivered, or garbled Applications, messages, email or mail; or for lost, interrupted or unavailable network, server, Internet Service Provider (ISP), website, or other connections, availability or accessibility, or miscommunications or failed computer, satellite, telephone or cable transmissions, lines, or technical failure or jumbled, scrambled, delayed, or misdirected transmissions or computer hardware or software malfunctions, failures or difficulties, or other errors or difficulties of any kind whether human, mechanical, electronic, computer, network, typographical, printing or otherwise relating to or in connection with the Program, including, without limitation, errors or difficulties which may occur in connection with the administration of the Program, the processing or reviewing of Applications, the announcement of the grants or in any Program-related materials. Indemnitees are also not responsible for any incorrect or inaccurate information, whether caused by site users, tampering, hacking, or by any equipment or programming associated with or utilized in the Program. Indemnitees are not responsible for injury or damage to any person's computer related to or resulting from participating in this Program. Persons who tamper with or abuse any aspect of the Program, who act in an unsportsmanlike or disruptive manner, or who are in violation of these Terms and Conditions, as solely determined by the Sponsor, will be disqualified and all associated Applications will be void. Should any portion of the Program be, in Sponsor's sole opinion, compromised by virus, worms, bugs, non-authorized human intervention or other causes which, in the sole opinion of the Sponsor, corrupt or impair the administration, security, fairness or proper submission of Applications, Sponsor reserves the right at its sole discretion to suspend, modify or terminate the Program and, if terminated, at its discretion, select the potential grant recipients from all eligible, non-suspect Applications received prior to action taken using the judging procedure outlined above or as otherwise deemed fair and appropriate by Sponsor. CAUTION: ANY ATTEMPT TO DELIBERATELY DAMAGE THE WEBSITE OR UNDERMINE THE LEGITIMATE OPERATION OF THE PROGRAM MAY BE IN VIOLATION OF CRIMINAL AND CIVIL LAWS AND SHOULD SUCH AN ATTEMPT BE MADE,

SPONSOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO SEEK DAMAGES AND OTHER REMEDIES (INCLUDING ATTORNEYS' FEES) FROM ANY SUCH INDIVIDUAL TO THE FULLEST EXTENT OF THE LAW, INCLUDING CRIMINAL PROSECUTION.

SPONSOR: National Main Street Center, Inc., 53 W. Jackson, Suite 350, Chicago, IL 60604.