

Request for Proposal: Contract Grant Writer for SnoValley Tilth

Organizational Overview: SnoValley Tilth seeks to create a thriving, sustainable regional food economy in the Snoqualmie, Snohomish, and Sammamish watersheds, with a strong community of successful farmers at its heart. Our primary focus is on farmers—both experienced and new farmers—but our work also benefits community members and local food consumers. We connect and educate through monthly potlucks, workshops and farm tours, the Experience Farming Project, and the Farmland Network. We advocate for farmers and landowners at the city and county levels. SnoValley Tilth is effective because we are farmer-led, based in our local community, and are a trusted voice. We have strong partnerships with agencies, organizations and individuals that impact farming in our region and promote an organizational culture of innovation, communication, inclusion and transparency.

Mission: SnoValley Tilth supports organic and sustainable food and fiber production throughout the Snoqualmie, Snohomish, and Sammamish watersheds. We bring together farmers and the community to build a thriving local food system.

Vision: More farmers on more farmland, growing more sustainable food and fiber for our community.

Objective: The contract grant writer will complete two projects as budget allows.

1. Initial work: Craft compelling narratives and content to be used in grant applications to support the general operating budget of SnoValley Tilth.
2. Ongoing support: Write and/or review and edit customized restricted grants to support the programs and projects of SnoValley Tilth.

Scope of Work: SnoValley Tilth (SVT) currently benefits from grant support from local government and a small number of private charitable foundations. It is our intention to grow the support from private charitable foundations, family foundations and corporate entities. The organization has a framework for fundraising strategy and a grants calendar for 2022.

Initially, the grant writer will work with the executive director to refine existing messages and develop new language to include in general operating grants in support of SVT's mission. This will include crafting answers to common grant application questions.

Upon completion of the initial work, the grant writer will continue to work (as budget allows) with the executive director to customize existing language and/or write, review, and/or edit language for operating and/or restricted grants to support the program and projects of SnoValley Tilth. This work may include crafting new – and/or reviewing and editing existing– grant applications, support materials, and communication with the granting organization.

The grant writing consultant will:

1. Review documentation and interview staff, board members, and or program participants to understand SnoValley Tilth's mission, vision, organizational structure, and programs sufficiently to create compelling cases for support.
2. Work with the executive director to develop messaging, themes, and language to be used in grant applications to support the organization's general operating budget.
3. Meet mutually agreed upon deadlines.
4. Communicate regularly with the executive director on timelines, content, and grant strategy.

The grant writer will not be responsible for crafting an overall grant or fundraising strategy for the organization, nor will be responsible for submitting all grants on behalf of the organization.

Timeline: We anticipate the initial work to create language for application to take approximately 2-4 months. Ongoing grant writing support may continue through the end of the year and beyond as budget allows.

Budget: SnoValley Tilth has budgeted \$4000 for the first year of contract grant writing services.

Submitting qualifications and proposal: Please submit materials outlining your experience and qualifications of the individual or firm, as well as the resume of the principal grant writer providing services for this project. Please detail the experience the individual or firm has working with a variety of funding sources (government, corporate, private and family foundations). In addition, please provide an outline of proposed fees.

Proposals will be reviewed as they are submitted and are due by 5pm on April 30, 2022. Please submit to dave@snovalleytilth.org.