

Sidney R. Baer, Jr. Foundation Grant Guidelines

Overview

The Sidney R. Baer, Jr. Foundation is a catalyst for positive change in the lives of those living with schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder and bipolar disorder. It is our mission to award grants to organizations and institutions doing work that will have a tangible impact on the field of mental health. Our vision is a better world, where those affected with serious mental illness might no longer feel the isolation so often associated with these diseases.

Every grant the foundation awards starts with a single question: “Would this have benefited Sidney?” Our namesake was a member of the well-known family who founded the Stix Baer and Fuller department store chain. A brilliant businessman who was only limited by his illness, Sidney accumulated a great deal of wealth in his lifetime, but no amount of money was enough to soothe the overwhelming struggles associated with his schizophrenia.

When Sidney and his lawyer, George B. Handran, established the Sidney R. Baer, Jr. foundation in 1999, George promised Sidney that the foundation would become Sidney’s enduring legacy. 23 years and 50 million dollars later, this promise has become a reality. George, until his death in December 2021, was Co-Trustee with U.S. Bank, N.A., of the foundation. Now, U.S. Bank, N.A., Trustee and Co-Executive Directors, Lee F. Bearman and Lee M. Rodgers, both relatives of Sidney, work to continue Sidney’s legacy.

In honor of Sidney R. Baer, Jr., the foundation has identified five grant segments where we believe our funds will make the biggest difference for those suffering from serious mental illness. Education, criminal justice, reintegration, clinical research, and social support are all aspects of Sidney’s day-to-day life where greater access to understanding and resources would have improved his quality of life.

Exclusions

No grants will be made for international activities or to foreign charitable institutions.

The primary focus is to fund programs concentrating on **schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder and bipolar disorder within the continental United States.**

Current and Future Programs. While Mr. Baer realized that relief to those suffering from serious mental illness and research into its causes could be a long-term project, he also realized the immediate needs of those suffering from serious mental illness were equally important. It is a purpose of the Foundation to remain faithful to Mr. Baer’s spirit of both expeditious action and quests for long-term solutions. The Foundation’s goals include the alleviation of immediate and quantifiable needs and the accomplishments of long-term projects. Requests for multi-year grants will be considered.

Scope of Grants. The Foundation is not an operating charitable foundation. Its purpose is to disburse funds to public charities that are presently recognized as qualified 501(c)(3) organizations for accomplishment of the Foundation’s charitable purposes.

Grants will only be awarded to organizations that agree to expend **no more than seven percent (7%)** of received funds on organization administrative expenses.

Funding will not be provided for:

- Grants made directly to individuals or to medical researchers.
- Grants made for current operating funds, annual fund-raising drives, or for the establishment of, or additions to, endowments.
- Charitable needs that are beyond the scope of the Foundation's mission such as, developmental disability, physical disability, and drug and alcohol addiction.
- Grants for international activities or to foreign charitable institutions.

Process

Step 1: Review [Home \(baerfoundation.com\)](http://baerfoundation.com) and the above grant guidelines to identify if your grant request would be a good fit for the mission of the foundation.

Step 2: Complete our Letter of Intent at [Logon - Grant Lifecycle Manager \(grantinterface.com\)](http://grantinterface.com). Please register your charitable organization through the Sidney R. Baer, Jr. Foundation, U.S. Bank, N.A., Trustee Online Portal (link above). Please be sure to **CREATE NEW ACCOUNT** to create your login credentials. Once registered, you will have access to the Letter of Intent Online Document for completion.

Letters of Intent will be accepted November 1st through March 1st. The process will close at 10 pm CST on March 1st.

Step 3: The Grants' Committee will review your Letter of Intent. In the event the Committee is interested in pursuing your request, you will receive an invitation for the upcoming grant cycle. The invitation will include detailed instructions about how and where to apply.

**NOTE: Full Grant Applications are accepted by invitation only. You must complete the Letter of Intent which will be reviewed by the Grants' Committee. In the event the Committee is interested in pursuing the request, the Grantee will be invited to submit a full completed grant application through our Foundant online portal.*

Step 4: If your organization is invited to submit a grant application, you will receive notification *and* will have access to the grant application on the Foundant online portal. The grant application must be submitted through our Foundant online portal no later than May 31st.

Step 5: Decisions on grants are made by the Grants' Committee of the Foundation. You will be notified whether or not you were awarded a grant from The Sidney R. Baer, Jr. Foundation and in what amount.

Step 6: Please access your organization's account if you were notified to complete a full or interim progress report to meet the deadlines. Only agencies that have received grant funding will receive a notification from the [Logon - Grant Lifecycle Manager \(grantinterface.com\)](http://grantinterface.com) for this form.