



WHAT IS THE DARDEN RESTAURANTS COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM?

As part of Darden’s commitment to being a good neighbor in every community we serve, we are excited to announce the inaugural Darden Restaurants Community Grants Program aimed at strengthening communities and making a positive difference in people’s lives!

Every restaurant in the Darden family will have the opportunity to help **award a \$1,000 grant to a nonprofit organization in its local community**, bringing to life Darden’s commitment of seeking long-term, innovative solutions to opportunities and challenges that matter to our business, our employees and the communities where we live and work.

USE THIS GUIDE IF YOU ARE A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION AND WOULD LIKE TO APPLY FOR A GRANT. It will help you understand how the program works, how to apply and the key dates!

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS APPLYING FOR A GRANT MUST SUPPORT ONE OF DARDEN’S KEY FOCUS AREAS:



1

Access to Postsecondary Education

- Positively impact the educational prospects of underserved youth, ages 14 to 18, in middle and high school
- Provide access to the tools and information needed to pursue higher education (e.g., 2-4 year college, culinary or technical school)

Examples include: Boys & Girls Clubs, College Summit and ProStart high school culinary programs



2

Preservation of Natural Resources

- Restore and preserve water and land ecosystems
- Teach members of the community about environmental sustainability and conservation

Examples include: Sierra Club, National Recreation and Parks Association and National Environmental Education Foundation



3

Hunger

- Provide food and other nourishment to people whose food source might be compromised or who would go hungry otherwise
- Give access or help to deliver food to the underserved

Examples include: Feeding America, Share Our Strength, local food banks and community kitchens

WHAT ORGANIZATIONS QUALIFY FOR A GRANT?

- U.S. applicants that are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations and cannot be private foundations as defined in Section 509(a) of the Internal Revenue Code
- Canadian equivalent of a U.S. nonprofit organization, and cannot be the Canadian equivalent of a private foundation
- Nonprofit public charity with contributions that are tax deductible under Sections 501(c)(3) and 170(b) of the Internal Revenue Code in the United States or the equivalent Canadian status

WHAT ORGANIZATIONS DO NOT QUALIFY FOR A GRANT?

- Any organization that falls outside of Darden's three key focus areas
- Organizations that discriminate in their membership or provisional services on the basis of race, religion, creed, national origin, disability, handicap, age, sexual orientation, marital status, veteran status or any other basis prohibited by law
- Organizations that knowingly provide financial, technical, in-kind, or material support or resources to any individual or entity, or agent thereof, that we know, or have reason to know, advocates, plans, sponsors, engages in, or has engaged in terrorist activity, including prohibited persons on a U.S. Government issued list (e.g., OFAC SDN list). No officers, directors, or affiliated organizations, including subsidiaries, partners, or parent organizations knowingly support or engage in terrorist activity
- For-profit ventures
- Foreign organizations or organizations outside of the U.S. and Canada
- Organizations whose mission is outside of the U.S. and Canada
- National or local chapters of disease-specific or health-related organizations
- Endowment or capital campaigns
- Labor unions
- Athletic teams
- Organizations whose prime purpose is to influence legislation
- Political organizations, candidates, committees, lobbyists or public office holders
- Religious organizations in support of their sacramental or theological functions
- Charity publications or organizations seeking advertisements or promotional support
- Fraternities or sororities

TIMING: KEY DATES

November 4, 2011:

Deadline for all interested organizations that align with one of our three focus areas to submit a brief application.

January 25, 2012:

A short list of organizations will be notified by this date regarding a decision to move forward with a full application.

April 20, 2012:

Organizations will be selected and checks sent out by this time. Restaurants will celebrate and engage with the organizations at a local level.

HOW CAN ORGANIZATIONS APPLY?

1. Organizations interested in applying for a grant should visit www.darden.com/commitment/community/darden_restaurants_community_grants.asp. If they meet the funding criteria, they will be requested to complete a brief application. As part of this process, organizations will select between one and five Darden restaurants in their community under which to apply, based on a 20-mile geography or on their existing relationship with a restaurant. (Oct. 10 - Nov. 4)
2. Each restaurant team, in partnership with the Darden Foundation, will help select the final grant recipient, one for each of our 1,900 restaurants. Organizations will be evaluated based on the qualifiers and criteria noted in the complete Grant Guidelines found at www.darden.com/commitment/community/darden_restaurants_community_grants_guidelines.asp. (January - February)
3. After the nonprofit organization has been selected and the check has been sent, the restaurant team will be notified and have the ability to celebrate with the organization. (Feb - May)

QUESTIONS AND SUPPORT

We want to hear from you!

We know you're excited! We are too. For organizations interested in applying for a grant, please visit www.darden.com/commitment/community/darden_restaurants_community_grants.asp. If you have any questions or suggestions, please send us an email at ardeninthecommunity@arden.com and put "Potential Organization/ Restaurants Community Grants" in the subject, and we'll aim to get back to you within 48 hours. Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you!