

ASPIRATIONS GRANT APPLICATION

The purpose of the Aspirations Grant Program is to award a grant (usually between \$2,500 and \$10,000) each year to empower and further business enhancement or culinary innovation to a woman (LDEI members or former members are not eligible) or 501(c)3 organization in the San Antonio, Texas Hill Country, or South Texas community. Please note that all information submitted in connection with this application and reporting will remain confidential. All Aspirations Grant Committee members have signed Non-Disclosure Agreements.

Grant Eligibility – Grant applicants must meet the following criteria and include appropriate materials with application. We do NOT consider incomplete applications.

- Must be a woman or 501(c)3 organization specializing in the areas of food, beverage, agriculture, hospitality, or arts of the table who resides in the San Antonio, Texas Hill Country, or South Texas areas. (LDEI members or former members are not eligible.)
- Must be a citizen of the United States of America.
- Must demonstrate how the grant will be used for culinary development or innovation in her respective field. The grant cannot be used to cover labor costs, rent, taxes or fees, or to pay food vendors, or website development. The grant is normally used to help purchase equipment such as cooking kettles, walk-in coolers, commercial mixers, etc. If the equipment costs more than the grant, then applicant must be able to pay for the portion of the equipment not covered by the grant. The grant is paid directly to the seller, not to the grant recipient.
- Must demonstrate community giveback and/or support the initiative will have on the community. Please provide detail.
- Must provide three (3) written reference letters as to why the individual should receive an Aspirations Grant and detail the reference's relationship with the individual. Please provide on letterhead. If the letter is email, we must be able to see the sender's email address and time sent.
- Must be operating a business or project in relationship to the culinary innovation for at least one year.
- Must represent fiduciary responsibility and transparency in the form of cash flow statement, income statement, balance sheet, and last IRS tax return. Must be current with IRS and Texas State Comptroller.
- If selected as a grant finalist, agree to be interviewed by the Aspirations Grant Committee.

If selected as Aspirations Grant recipient:

- Must follow the reporting and accountability guidelines, including submitting two performance reports – one six months into the project, and the final at the end of the project, detailing how the grant was used to enhance business or project and the community benefit.
- Must attend the Aspirations Grant Award ceremony on date appointed by LDEI-SA Chapter.
- Must agree to participate in LDEI-SA Chapter public relations initiatives to promote the Aspirations Grant Program, if asked.

- Must agree to presence on the LDEI-SA as well as the LDEI websites and mutual promotion of the Aspirations Grant Program if asked.
- Must agree to allow use of video or photographs of recipient and/or her business at LDEI events, websites, Facebook, and all other types of media or public relations efforts.

LDEI-SA Aspirations Grant Application

Name: _____

SSN: _____

Texas DL # or ID: _____

DOB: ____ / ____ / ____

Name of Business: (legal) _____

Do you use a DBA? If so, please list _____

Business Structure: _____ Fed. Emp. ID # _____

Texas Sales Tax Number: _____

How long in business? _____

How many employees? full _____ part-time _____

Are you a US citizen? Yes _____ No _____

Who is your CPA? _____

Are you current with Texas Sales Tax, Franchise Tax, and all United States Government Agencies? Yes _____ No _____

Do you have a website? If so, list address: _____

Use additional paper for the following:

- Tell us about your business (history, what you produce, etc.) and include physical and mailing addresses, email address and phone number.
- Tell us why and how you will use the money. Be specific. Please see note at beginning of application regarding amounts and limitations. The purchase of used equipment is acceptable.
- Please note you must include current business balance sheet, income statement and cash flow statement with this application. Also include your latest IRS tax return for business.
- Tell us how you will give back to the community.

Deadline for submission: The application must be sent to the LDEI-SA official post office box and postmarked by June 30, OR the information can be sent to our email address, and must be received by June 30, 11:59 p.m.

Mailing Address: Aspirations Grant, Les Dames d'Escoffier, PO BOX 15302, San Antonio, TX 78212

Email Address: AspirationsGrant@ldeisa.org, use *Aspirations Grant* in the subject line, and enclose scanned application and other requested materials as attachments.

You may also submit your application & other requested materials on our website at <https://ldeisanantonio.org/aspirations-grant-program>

For requested materials please submit them via Dropbox on the provided website form as a single file.

Questions – Email: AspirationsGrant@ldeisa.org

Decision will be made by August 31 and each applicant will be notified – acceptance or regrets -- soon after that date.

NOTE: Please doublecheck that you have included all requested information. We do not consider incomplete applications.