

## Bikes Belong Grants

**Bikes Belong will accept requests for funding of up to \$10,000 for facility and advocacy projects.** This is a nonprofit group from Boulder, CO. They do not require a specific percentage match, but they do look at leverage and funding partnerships very carefully. They will not consider grant requests in which they are listed as the sole funder.

- **All proposals must:**
  - Address the goals of the grants program strategic plan
  - Encourage ridership growth
  - Support bicycle advocacy
  - Promote bicycling
  - Build political support
  - Leverage funding
  - Serve diverse regions/populations
- Address the project objectives of the facility or advocacy funding categories (following).
- Propose a specific program or project that is measurable. **Bikes Belong will not fund general operating costs.**

Priority is given to:

- Bicycle organizations, coalitions, and associations—particularly those that have not received Bikes Belong funding in the past.
- Projects that build coalitions for bicycling by collaborating the efforts of bicycle industry and advocacy.

Because of the limited funds, they rarely award grants to organizations and communities that have received Bikes Belong funding within the past three years.

Please review the following specifics of the facility and advocacy programs to ensure that your proposal meets their guidelines.

### **Facility Project Objectives**

"To connect existing facilities or create new opportunities; leverage federal, state, and private funds; influence policy; and generate economic activity."

Eligible facility projects include:

- Bike paths, trails, and bridges
- Mountain bike facilities
- Bike parks
- BMX facilities

Generally, Bikes Belong will consider funding construction costs and matching funds for facilities projects. They will also consider funding advocacy work for bike facilities on a case-by-case basis. (Please call their office before submitting an application of this nature.)

Projects with a limited impact, such as the installation of a small number of bike racks, are unlikely to be funded through this program.

Bikes Belong will **NOT** consider facility applications that request funding for:

- Master plans and other policy documents or litigation
- Signs, maps, and travel
- Trailheads, information kiosks, benches, and restroom facilities
- Bicycles, helmets, tools, and other accessories or equipment
- Events or bicycle rodeos
- Bike recycling, repair, or earn-a-bike programs
- Bike-share programs
- Projects in which Bikes Belong is the sole funder. However, Bikes Belong will consider being the initial funder.

### **Advocacy Project Objectives**

"To build the strength of bicycle advocacy organizations that have the potential to increase bicycle ridership and form coalitions with the bicycle industry."

Eligible advocacy projects include:

- Programs that significantly increase ridership
- Innovative pilot projects
- Programs that have a significant political impact

Generally, Bikes Belong will consider funding projects that have a reasonable degree of measurable success and future sustainability. Bikes Belong will only fund advocacy projects where the applicant's primary purpose is **bicycle advocacy**.

Bikes Belong will **NOT** consider advocacy project applications that request funding for:

- General operating costs
- Staff salaries
- Rides and event sponsorships
- Planning and retreats
- Bicycles, helmets, tools, and accessories or equipment
- Bike-share programs
- Organizations whose primary mission is not expressly related to bicycle advocacy

### **Evaluation Process**

Applications received by Bikes Belong will be initially reviewed by the Grants & Research Director to determine eligibility.

All grant applicants will receive an e-mail acknowledgement confirming receipt and letting them know if the proposal is complete, eligible, and when it will be reviewed.

Applications that are complete and eligible will be considered by the Bikes Belong Grants Committee on a quarterly basis. The committee will either recommend approval, rejection, or request more information. If the committee:

- *Approves* the application, it is sent to the full Board of Directors for final approval. The applicant will be notified of the proposal's outcome shortly afterward.
- *Rejects* the application, the proposal is denied and the applicant will be notified.
- *Requests more information*, the Grants & Research Director will contact the applicant to resolve outstanding issues, and then re-submit the proposal to the committee.

Bear in mind that the Bikes Belong application and review process is fairly rigorous, and are only able to fund 15–20% of the applications they receive.

If your proposal is denied, it is not likely to be funded in a future cycle and you should not resubmit a rejected proposal unless asked to do so.

Grants Committee members are volunteers from the Bikes Belong Board of Directors. Applicants who attempt to lobby individual members of the committee will hurt their proposal's chance of success.

Only e-mailed applications are accepted. Mailed or faxed applications will not be considered.

**Source URL:** <http://www.bikesbelong.org>