



City of Knoxville Office of Community Safety & Empowerment

2025 Empower Knox Grant Proposal – Event Funding

Open Application Window: November 11, 2024 - May 1, 2025

Preliminary Review Deadline: April 28, 2025 at 4:30

Application Window Closes: May 1, 2025 before 4:30

Section 1: Application Check List

Please submit all of the following. Applications that are missing materials will not be accepted.

- ☒ Completed all Application Questions including Section 1-4 as well as Grant Proposal Sections 5 & 6.
- ☒ **Organization Annual Report or Budget** for applicant organization or fiscal sponsor
- ☒ **Project Budget Form** (please use provided template)
- ☒ **W-9** for applicant organization or fiscal sponsor - <https://www.irs.gov/forms-pubs/about-form-w-9>
- ☒ **IRS 501c3 Tax Exempt Designation Letter** for applicant organization or fiscal sponsor
- ☒ **Currently registered with TN Secretary of State** or registration exemption letter from the State of TN for applicant or fiscal sponsor. See <https://tncab.sos.tn.gov/portal/registered-charities-search>
- ☐ (If using a fiscal sponsor) **Letter from Fiscal Sponsor** acknowledging intent to serve in that capacity

Section 2: Applicant Information

Organization Name: S.O.U.L.S. Youth Choir Current Date: 4/29/25
Contact Name: Dr. Jill Hobby Position held by contact: Founder/Director
Contact Email: musicalpraise@outlook.com Phone Number: 865.409.9090
Physical Address: 3213 Great Meadows Drive, Knoxville, TN 37920
(If Different) Mailing Address: P.O. Box 20502, Knoxville, TN 37940

Section 3: Applicant Details

1.) Current Legal Business Status: *(Select only one)*

☒ 501c(3): If 501c(3), applicant is registered with the [State of TN as a Charitable Organization](#).
Please provide Registration No.

☐ Community-Based Organization (CBO) - Not an active 501c3 and/or utilizing a Fiscal Sponsor

(If Applicable) Fiscal Sponsor Name and Contact: _____

☐ Other (Local Education Agency, Non-Public School, etc): _____

2.) Describe the mission of your organization, the populations served, and the services offered. (100 words max)

S.O.U.L.S. (Sounds of Unity Lifting Spirits) is a 501-(c)(3), non-profit corporation founded with the purpose of providing opportunities for culturally diverse youth up to age 18 years old to build relational bonds through music and leadership training.

Our mission is to share performances of classical, gospel, contemporary Christian, patriotic

3.) Have you received funding from the City of Knoxville in the past? If yes, list grant type and amount (50 words max)

☐ Yes
(If yes, list grant and amount)

☒ No

Applicant Organization Name: S.O.U.L.S. Youth Choir



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Section 4: Project Budget

1.) Project or Event Title: Musical Theater combats racial discrimination and teen bullying in the musical Hairspray

2.) Funding Amount Requested: \$ 1500.00

3.) Estimated Project Timeline (Start Date): June 1, 2025 (End Date): June 28, 2025

Line Item	Description/Details	Unit Cost	Quantity	Total Cost
Program Materials				
25 student tickets	Student tickets to see the musical Hairspray at Cumberland County Playhouse	\$25.00	25	625.00
25 copies of sheet music	Students will rehearse music in weekly practices. Music will be purchased from JW Pepper.	\$4.00	25	
Total Program Materials:				\$ 725.00
Training & Meeting Supplies and/or Operating Costs				
Bus transportation	Bus transportation to and from Cumberland County Playhouse for 25 students	\$500.00	1 bus	\$ 500.00
Student Lunch	Students will be fed lunch after the show before boarding the bus to come home.	\$11.00	25	
Total Training, Meeting, and/or Operating Costs:				\$ 775.00
Participant Stipends (if applicable)				
Total Participant Stipends:				\$ 0.00
Personnel and/or Administrative Costs				
Total Personnel and/or Administrative Costs (May not exceed 20% of Total):				\$ 0.00
Total Budget (Should equal Section 4, Question 2 – Total Amount Requested):				\$ 1,500.00

Applicant Organization Name: S.O.U.L.S. Youth Choir



EMPOWER KNOX

BUILDING SUCCESSFUL LIFE OUTCOMES FOR KNOXVILLE'S YOUTH

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Please submit all grant application pages including Section 1-4 as well as Section 5 & 6 for each project.

Review the Empower Knox Event Funding Grant Guidelines [here](#).

Funding available from \$500-\$1,500 for direct engagement of youth ages 12-24. Not suitable for fundraising event sponsorships. Event must occur between January 1 and September 15, 2025. Short Answer text boxes will cut off beyond the word count maximum. Answers beyond the maximum may not be considered.

Section 5: Project Proposal and Focus

- 1.) Event Title: Musical Theater combats racial discrimination and teen bullying in the musical Hairspray
- 2.) Funding Amount Requested (up to \$1,500): \$1500.00
- 3.) Exact or Proposed Event Timeframe (Start Date): June 1, 2025 (End Date): June 28, 2025 (no later September 15, 2025)
- 4.) Number of anticipated youth ages 12-24 directly served by requested funds: 25
- 5.) Please describe your event and the intended audience (150 max)

S.O.U.L.S. Youth Choir, made up of racially diverse Knoxville area teens, will be working on musical theater Broadway music this summer every Monday night from 6 pm-7:45 pm that addresses national and civic issues that affect them, such as bullying and racial discrimination. One of the musicals they will be learning about is Hairspray, which is a show that sheds light on racial discrimination in the 1960s and weight issues among teens. This music and musical theater experience will be a catalyst for thoughtful conversation to break down barriers

- 6.) How will your event support the Empower Knox mission to *Build Successful Life Outcomes for Knoxville's Youth*? (150 words max)

The musical Hairspray is set in the early 1960s, during the Civil Rights Movement, which is a very crucial aspect of the plot. The story revolves around Tracy Turnblad and her newfound stardom on the TV show, The Corny Collins Show. Tracy also has a passion for achieving racial equality and desires to share the spotlight with her colleagues of color. The musical also addresses weight issues among teens.

Section 6: Signature and Acknowledgement

- 1.) Reach out via email or phone for more information and assistance with your application or project proposal:

Questions?

Emily Norris
865-215-3524
enorris@knoxvilletn.gov

- 2.) If you wish, to have your application preliminarily reviewed for completeness:

Preliminary Application Review Due:

Monday, April 28, 2025 before 4:30p

- 3.) Submit applications and accompanying documents by email or in-person:

Final Application Deadline:

Thursday, May 1, 2025 before 4:30p

Applications will not be accepted beyond this deadline.

Emily Norris
Youth Engagement Manager

400 W Main Street, Room 546E
Knoxville, TN 37902

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and

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