

Operation Round Up is designed to provide financial assistance to qualifying organizations and projects that serve Sioux Valley Southwestern members and their communities.

Funds for Operation Round Up are donated by customers of Sioux Valley Southwestern Electric, a cooperative that provides electric service to 18,000 customers in Lake, Moody, Minnehaha, Brookings, & parts of Kingsbury counties in South Dakota and Rock and Pipestone counties in Minnesota.

In September 2000, Sioux Valley Southwestern Electric began rounding up the electric bills of customers who chose to participate in the voluntary program. Bills are rounded up to the next highest dollar. The additional pennies are placed in a special trust fund.

This trust fund is administered by the Sioux Valley Energy Trust Board, a group that operates independently of the cooperative. The seven-member board evaluates all funding requests and determines how the funds will be distributed. Bylaws allow the Trust Board to make donations to worthwhile community causes. Funds will not be used for the following, according to the policy:

- Lobbying, political and religious campaigns
- Veteran, fraternal and labor organizations
- Capital fund campaigns
- Individuals (except school scholarships & disaster relief).
- Advertising
- Fund-raising dinners, raffles and other events
- National fund drives

The Trust Board's policy outlines project categories eligible for funding:

- Community service (emphasis on public safety, health care and enhancement of cultural environment),
- Community leadership programs,
- Education and youth projects (scholarships, social problems and wellness/athletics),
- Environmental projects (recycling, environmental education and environmental ag research),
- Emergency energy assistance funds to organizations for distribution, and
- Disaster relief.

Please be specific in your request for funds. Itemization of costs for certain items or a specific project is more easily evaluated than a general request toward your budget. In addition, itemize other sources of funding. All funding requests will be evaluated based on the following:

- Potential benefit to area residents and the entire community,
- Level of community support for the program or project,
- Financial need (**must include financial statement for the application to be completed**),
- Results that are predictable and can be evaluated.