



GRANTMAKING GUIDELINES

A Guide for Seeking and Receiving Funding from the Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley

GRANT APPLICATION CRITERIA

Applications are accepted until end of day on designated deadline dates. Applications received after the deadline will be held until the following grant deadline. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed or considered.

- Eligibility

Organizations eligible to receive grants from the Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley are those determined by the IRS to be public charities. This encompasses most charitable, scientific, social service, educational and religious organizations described in § 501(c)(3) of the tax code, as well as government entities. Organizations that are not public charities may apply through a fiscal sponsor. The activities contemplated by the requesting organization must directly benefit residents of Mahoning or Trumbull Counties (or the surrounding area).

- Grantmaking Priorities

The Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley makes community investments in programs that enhance the quality of life of all members of our community.

The overarching goal of the Community Foundation is to build a healthy, thriving and vibrant community. In our role as a grantmaker, we believe the most effective way to address the challenges facing our region is to support efforts of continuous improvement and striving for programmatic and management excellence within organizations and to encourage engaged residents in their efforts to improve the community.

Our vision for a vibrant and thriving Valley is a one that is safe and secure, has equitable access to good schools with effective and nurturing environments; has available and meaningful employment; and provides stable, affordable housing. The community works collectively on continuous improvement of the physical, social and cultural conditions for all residents and is focused on lifting up and building on the strengths and assets of the Valley.

Grants from the Community Foundation will support our vision of the community and focus on creating and sustaining programs and services where:

- all children have an equal opportunity to learn, grow and develop;
- physical, social and cultural conditions are continually enhanced for all residents;
- people have access to meaningful employment and stable, affordable housing;
- strong city centers are surrounded by vibrant neighborhoods;
- individuals and families are fully equipped to meet their basic needs;
- all residents have the opportunity to be engaged in the process of defining and achieving the type of community they choose to live in.

Preference is given to:

- Programs that demonstrate measurable outcomes.
- Programs that expand meaningful civic engagement and build social capital.
- Programs that build on existing assets
- Programs that address prevention as well as remediation.
- Programs that acknowledge and respect diversity and help bridge differences among individuals, organizations, and communities.
- Organizations that facilitate collaboration among relevant groups.
- Organizations that use or expand upon demonstrated and documented best practices.

The competitive grant program does not support:

- Requests from individuals
- Activities intended to influence specific legislation or election campaigns

The competitive grant program does not usually support requests for:

- Academic or medical research
- Multi-year funding
- Private education and religious organizations except for non-sectarian programs that serve broad community needs
- Retroactive funding for projects that have been completed or will be completed prior to the grant award date
- Fundraising events, the purchase of tickets for benefits, courtesy advertising, etc.
- Short-term programs without evidence of lasting impact
- Replacement of governmental or other public funding requests for multi-year funding
- Sponsoring or attending conferences when that is the central purpose of the request.
- Unnecessary duplication of existing services.
- Annual appeals or membership drives.
- Endowment building or debt reduction.
- Travel for individuals or groups when it is the primary focus of the proposal.
- Capital requests or capital campaigns.*

*Capital projects must help meet a compelling community need, advance Foundation priorities, and offer broad social benefits. Given the finite resources of the Community Foundation, when we do participate in a capital project, support is contingent on funding from other sources. Payment will not be authorized until the organization has raised a significant percentage of its total dollar goal.

GRANT RECIPIENT CONDITIONS

If your grant is approved, you will be required to submit a signed agreement before your grant check will be released. You will also be required to submit a final grant report no later than 12 months from the grant approval date. If your final grant report is not submitted by the deadline, future grant requests will not be considered until a satisfactory report is received.

If your grant was declined, you are welcome to apply again at any time.

While we do not prohibit reapplying in a set period of time, we do not encourage multiple, frequent requests from an organization.