2027 Grants Update

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF THE MAHONING VALLEY

Agenda

- What's New in CFMV Applications
- Progress Report
- Action Framework
- Community Forward Grant
- Q&A

What's new in CFMV applications

- Core Support grants (previously CFMV General Grant)
- Reworded questions and instructions
  - Proposed Work and Approach
  - Community Engagement instructions
- New questions
  - Focused on data and the WHY of your work

Some specific changes

- Key Relationships
- Expected Outcomes
- Data & Feedback
- Instructions have "What staff look for"

Progress Reports

- Now due at the deadline you applied to
  - Get grant through Q1 2027, Progress Report is due Q1 2028
- To handle the transition, all applications have a grant update question
- Bigger part of our review process
- More questions

Action Framework

- New tool to help reviewers make decisions for Community Forward
- **DOES NOT CHANGE** qualities we are looking for
  - Adds structure, language for consistency, transparency
- Developed from what we and other funders see as vital factors in creating sustainable community change

Action Framework pillars

- Urgent Needs to Lasting Change
  - Stabilizing something essential OR creating lasting change
- Stronger Nonprofits
  - Strengthens the organization beyond this grant
- Systems that Serve All
  - Improves how systems function or reduces barriers
- Collective Action
  - Collaboration is essential to achieving results

Community Forward grant

- New funding effort to support strategic efforts
- Big impact and long-term change
- Clear outcomes
- Multiple partners
- Substantial changes/additions to systems

Applying to Community Forward

- Two-step process
  - First stage: general information about the work to determine which proposals move ahead
  - Second stage: collect more information on goals, outcomes and sustainability
- No specific funding amounts
  - We want to make impactful grants
  - Only funding a small handful each cycle

Community Forward timeline

- First stage of application due at quarterly deadline
- Decisions made and notices go out about 2 months after
- If selected, second stage due within 2 quarters
  - Apply to Q1 and selected, absolute latest to submit is Q3 deadline in July
  - Deadline will be shown in your application!
- More in-depth staff follow-up
  - We want to provide as much support as we can – guidance, connections, resources, and more

When you submit your application	First phase application reviewed	Staff follow-up	Second phase appication due	Full application reviewed
Always the same	*Always the same*		*Decided by applicant*	*Based on applicant submission*
January 15 deadline	March committee meeting		April *OR* July deadline	June *OR* September committee meeting
April 15 deadline	June committee meeting		July *OR* October deadline	September *OR* December committee meeting
July 15 deadline	September committee meeting		October *OR* January deadline	December *OR* March committee meeting
October 15 deadline	December committee meeting		January *OR* April deadline	March *OR* June committee meeting

Wrapping up!

- Core Support is the new General Grant, same opportunity for essential support for operations, programs
- New applications better more standardized questions, stronger recommendations
- Progress Report instead of a final reports
- Action Framework help with decisions for Community Forward grants
- Community Forward grants for big, impactful projects that could change the landscape of the Valley

Questions?