Getting Grant Ready

Everything you need to know before applying for grants

Nonprofit Status

To apply to foundations, you must be an active tax-exempt organization, such as a **501(c)3**, with a Letter of Certification from the IRS *and* have Articles of Incorporation filed with the Ohio Attorney General office.

Fiscal Sponsors

If you are in the process of getting tax-exempt certification, you may apply with a **fiscal sponsor** with an active 501(c)3 status who will receive and manage the funds on your behalf. Most funders require a signed letter, dated on or before your application date, confirming that they will serve this role.

Churches

Churches are eligible to apply to the Community Foundation. As part of our team's grant review, they will follow-up for copies of documents showing tax-exempt status, such as a Sales and Use Tax Exemption Certificate from the Ohio Department of Taxation or documentation from your conference.

Company Foundations

When reviewing applications from the nonprofit exentsion of a **for-profit business**, funders are required to do extra due diligence and determine the charitable impact of the project. The Community Foundation will not consider proposals that have significant overlap with a business' core body of work.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF THE MAHONING VALLEY

Getting Grant Ready

Everything you need to know about applying for grants

Financial Documents

- An annual **operating budget** detailing your organization's expected costs AND expected income for the current fiscal year
- A **project budget** detailing the expected costs of the work AND how your organization plans to pay for it
- A year-to-date **income statement** detailing expenses and income your organization has had since the beginning of your organization's fiscal year *or* the calendar year
  - Must be
- A **balance sheet** detailing your organization's assets, liabilities/debt, and equity.

More Resources

Visit **CFMV.org/nonprofit-toolkit** for more resources to help you along your nonprofit journey!

Other Grant Documents

- A **list of board members**, including their role on the board, any relevant experience they have to your organization's mission, and how long they have served on your board
- Your organization's most recent **audit**, if available

A Strong Application

- A **clear plan** to do the work and the impact it will have on the community
- How the proposal addresses an **unmet community need**
- Your **organization mission** and how it relates to the work
- Your organization's **capacity,** including budget, staff and volunteers
- How your **partner with others** to complete the work

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF THE MAHONING VALLEY