Wayne County COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Competitive Community Grants

The Foundation was established in 1978 as a tax-exempt community foundation. Gifts from individuals, families, and businesses are used for scholarships, community projects and other charitable purposes throughout our area. All unrestricted donations to the Foundation are added to the General Community Fund. These unrestricted gifts provide the Foundation with flexibility in its charitable purpose, allowing the Board of Trustees to respond to innovative projects and changing community needs. Charitable organizations serving the residents of Wayne County are invited to apply for grants from these unrestricted funds in the spring and fall of each year.

Application Guidelines for Grant Proposals

Submission Deadline: March 1 and September 1

The Foundation's charitable grantmaking includes both capital and program grants which are awarded in the following categories: Arts & Culture; Civic & Community Affairs; Conservation & Environment; Education; Health & Wellness; and Human Services.

Characteristics of Competitive Grants

Eligible Organizations

By law, the Wayne County Community Foundation can only make grants to organizations recognized by the Internal Revenue Code as nonprofit, tax-exempt, charitable organizations (501(c)(3)s, public schools, and churches); or to qualified governmental agencies. **The Foundation strongly encourages collaborations between and among organizations working to achieve a common goal.** In such collaborations, one organization must be identified as the grantee applicant.

Size of Grants

The amount to award each year varies based on the Foundation's spending policy for permanently endowed funds. Proposals that demonstrate the most effective use of funds in the context of their programs have the greatest chance for success.

Duration of Grants

Grants are valid for a period of up to one year, with the expectation that the full amount of the grant will be used within that time.

Geographic Range of Grants

Grants are limited to activities and organizations benefiting the greater Wayne County area.

Leadership and Fiscal Accountability

Grantee organizations must have the leadership capacity, financial stability, and appropriate procedures in place for fiscal and organizational accountability.

In order to make the best use of available funds, the Foundation looks for one or more of the following when reviewing proposal requests:

- The project is a well-planned approach to solving a problem and delivering services.
- The use of funds will be efficient and effective.
- Foundation support is vital or catalytic to the success of the project.
- The proposed project is expected to continue after the grant ends.
- Expenses will be reduced by sharing resources with other agencies or groups.

Normally, the Foundation does *not* approve grants to support:

- General operating expenses of well-established organizations (i.e., those in existence 5+ yrs.);
- Deficit financing;
- Endowment funds;
- Annual appeals or membership contributions;
- Conferences, field trips, travel or recognition events;
- Religious organizations for religious purposes. However, we **do** support them for non-religious programs like hunger centers, job training or childcare.

Grants are limited to activities and organizations benefiting the greater Wayne County area. Grants may not be used to carry on propaganda or otherwise attempt to influence legislation, participate in or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office, or to conduct, directly or indirectly, any voter registration drive (within the meaning of Section 4945(d)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code).

The Foundation makes grants only to organizations that are recognized by the Internal Revenue Code as nonprofit, tax-exempt, charitable organizations (501(c)(3) organizations); or to qualified governmental agencies. The Foundation does not make grants to individuals except through scholarship funds, which are paid to the student's educational institution.

Trustees will consider past grant awards and first preference shall be given to organizations that have not received Competitive Community grants in the past two grant cycles.

For requests over $50,000, the Foundation prefers that organizations have attempted to secure funding from multiple sources (applied for other grants, solicited private donations, held fundraisers, etc.), not just Wayne County Community Foundation.

Organizations receiving grants are required to submit a report to the Foundation **within one year** of receipt of the grant.

Online Grant Proposal Application

All grant applications are completed online through our **Online Grant Portal**.

Answer the questions as completely, yet briefly, as possible. Clearly state the goal of the project for which you are requesting funds and describe how the funds would benefit Wayne County, Ohio.

If you are working with other organizations, foundations or businesses please identify them and describe the intended working relationship with each in the appropriate section of the application. You may also attach letters of support.

Draft Review Available - If you would like to receive feedback on your grant proposal application from our Executive **prior to submission**, please:

- Complete your application to the best of your ability but DO NOT SUBMIT IT. Leave it in the "draft" format.
- Email us at grants@wccfoh.org to ask if we can review your application. Please include your name, organization name and name of your project.
- Please contact us at least two weeks before the deadline if you would like us to review your application. We receive many applications, and want to ensure that we have time to give you the feedback you deserve.

Grant Proposal Application Deadline

The grant application deadline is March 1st for a decision by June 1st or September 1st for a decision by December 1st.

I still have questions!

We aim to keep our website up to date with the most recent information. If you still have questions, please contact us at grants@wccfoh.org and we will be happy to assist!