



COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION  
WEST CENTRAL ILLINOIS & NORTHEAST MISSOURI

# 2024 Community Grant Program Workshop

Community Foundation  
Serving West Central Illinois & Northeast Missouri



# Welcome!

## Kent Embree

Program Officer





# Agenda

## What We Will Discuss:

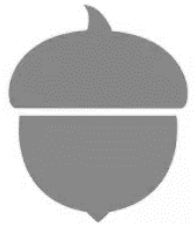
- Brief overview of the Community Foundation
- Grant guidelines, funds available, timeline & evaluation
- Online application review
- Helpful hints
- Questions & answers



# What We Do & Why

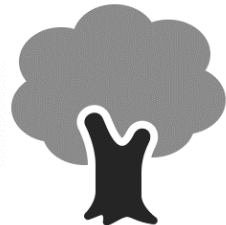
## Gather

We gather charitable dollars from individuals, families, business & nonprofits to create funds.



## Grow

With trusted, local advisors, we invest funds to build permanent, charitable endowments.



## Grant

Based on each fund's intentions, we invest in our 12-county region through grants.



*To improve the quality of life in the communities we serve*



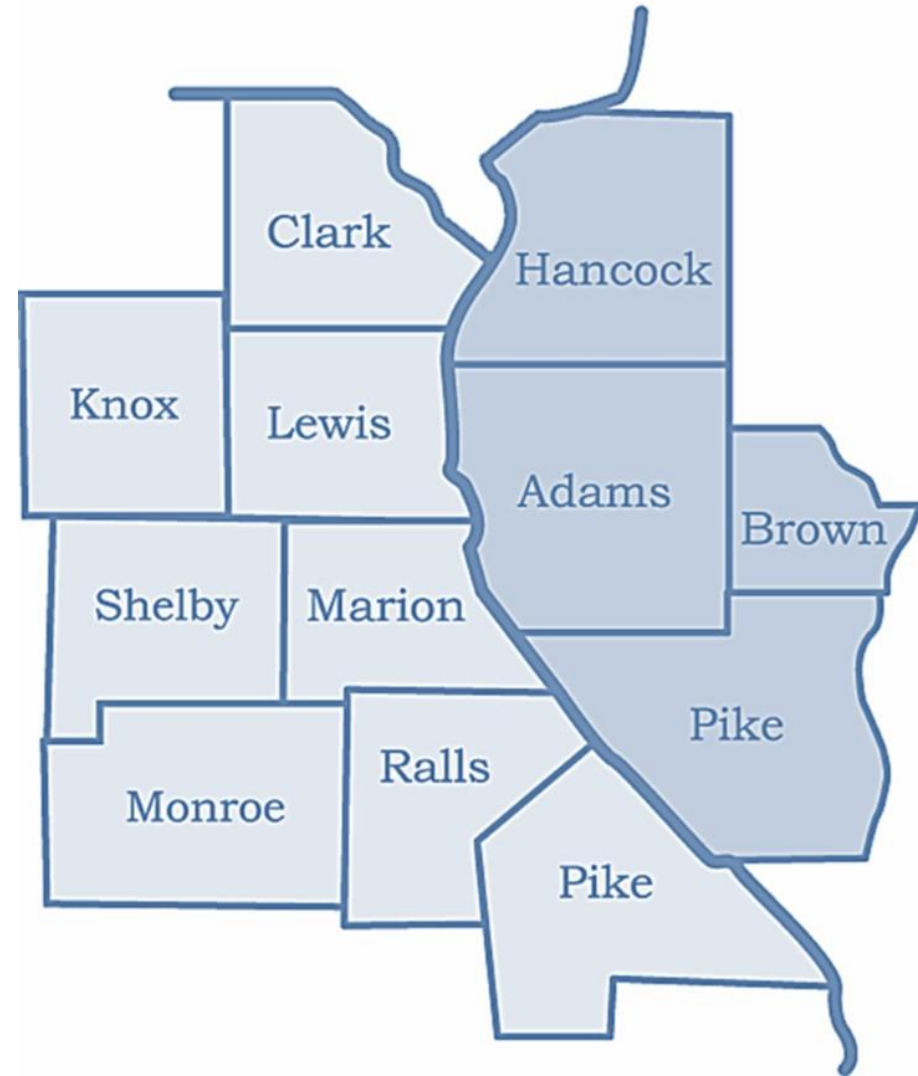
*Connecting people who care with causes that matter*

# Where We Serve

## 12 Direct Service Counties

**Illinois:** Adams, Brown, Hancock, & Pike Counties

**Missouri:** Clark, Lewis, Knox, Marion, Monroe, Pike, Ralls & Shelby Counties



*Connecting people who care with causes that matter*



# Our Grantmaking

## The nuts and bolts

- Community Grant program description
- Grant policy
- Find copies on the Nonprofits/Community Grants page of the Community Foundation website:  
[www.mycommunityfoundation.org](http://www.mycommunityfoundation.org)



*Connecting people who care with causes that matter*



# 2024 Program Highlights & Updates

2<sup>nd</sup> Year of the Community Grants re-branded program

No disqualification for technical errors

Due date of May 1 to allow for grace period

Simplified application (financials, bids, fewer questions)

NEW – No \$2,500 cap on general support requests





# Available Funds

*For the Community Grant Program:*

- Unrestricted
- Field of Interest
- County Endowment



*Connecting people who care with causes that matter*



**TIP:** Review Field of Interest Fund purposes to see if any “fit” with any projects of your organization. While you can’t apply for a specific fund, you can tailor your request & include key words.





# Who Can Apply

## Organization Type

- The Community Foundation can make grants to:
  - 501(c)(3) organizations
  - Government entities for public and charitable purposes
  - Religious organizations as defined in 170(b)(1)(A) of the IRS Code
- Non-eligible organizations may submit requests for charitable purposes under the umbrella of a 501(c)(3) organization who has agreed to be a Fiscal Sponsor.

*\*See Community Foundation grant policy*



# Focus Areas of Support

## Interest Areas



ARTS & CULTURE



COMMUNITY BETTERMENT



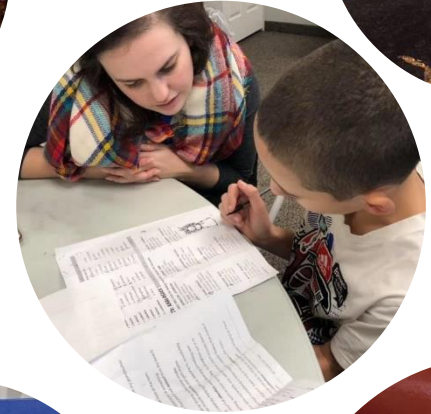
EDUCATION



HEALTH



HUMAN SERVICES







# Requests Considered



- Programs that support our 5 focus areas
- Programs that increase an organization's capacity
- "Seed Grants" to initiate new ideas and program innovations
- Programs that address community needs or opportunities
- Programs that highlight collaboration
- Operating support for organizations that support our 5 focus areas



- Endowment and annual fund drives
- Budget deficits
- Debt reduction
- Costs that have already occurred
- Multi-year grants
- National fundraising efforts
- Sponsorships for events
- Political campaigns or organizations
- Specifically religious purposes



# 2024 Funding Priorities

Through the Community Grant program, the Community Foundation seeks to fund requests that will:

- ✓ Provide **unique, innovative, or proven** solutions to demonstrated community needs and opportunities
- ✓ Make a **significant impact** on the success of the overall project/program
- ✓ Assist the organization in **expanding** or **enhancing** the delivery of its mission, particularly for underserved or at-risk populations
- ✓ Leverage community **collaborations** to maximize the impact on the community and population served
- ✓ Reach a significant number of community members or specific groups of **underserved community members** throughout its 12-county service area.



# A Note on Recurring Requests

It is accepted to apply for the same program each year.

However, if you do, take time to demonstrate how funding will **expand** or **enhance** prior results. Or, demonstrate how the need has **grown** faster than funding. What other funding sources are being sought?

Be specific and include past metrics and current goals.







# Funding Limits

New in 2024 – No \$2,500 cap

Projects & Programs or  
General Operating Support:  
Up to \$7,500





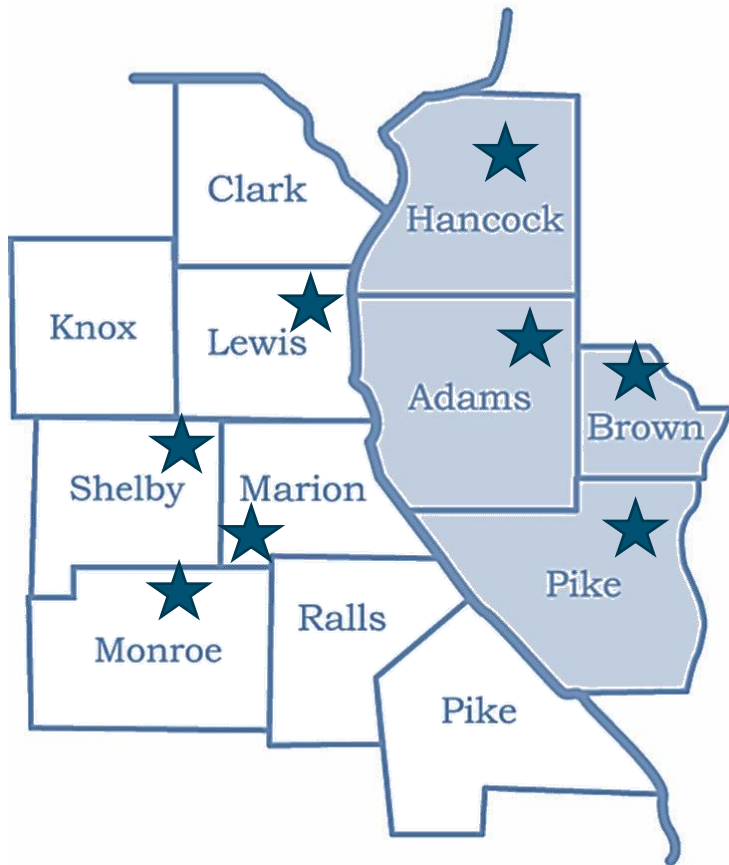
# 2024 Community Grant Funds Available

Fund Type	Amount
Unrestricted	\$98,320.75
Field of Interest	\$87,821.08
County Endowments	\$24,359.18
Donor Advised	TBD based on interest
<b>2024 Total</b>	<b>\$210,501.01</b>

\*See field of interest fund purpose list for details/parameters



# County Endowment Funds Awarding 2024 Grants



## Fund

Adams County, IL Endowment Fund

Brown County, IL Endowment Fund

Hancock County, IL Endowment Fund

Lewis County, MO Endowment Fund

Marion County, MO Endowment Fund

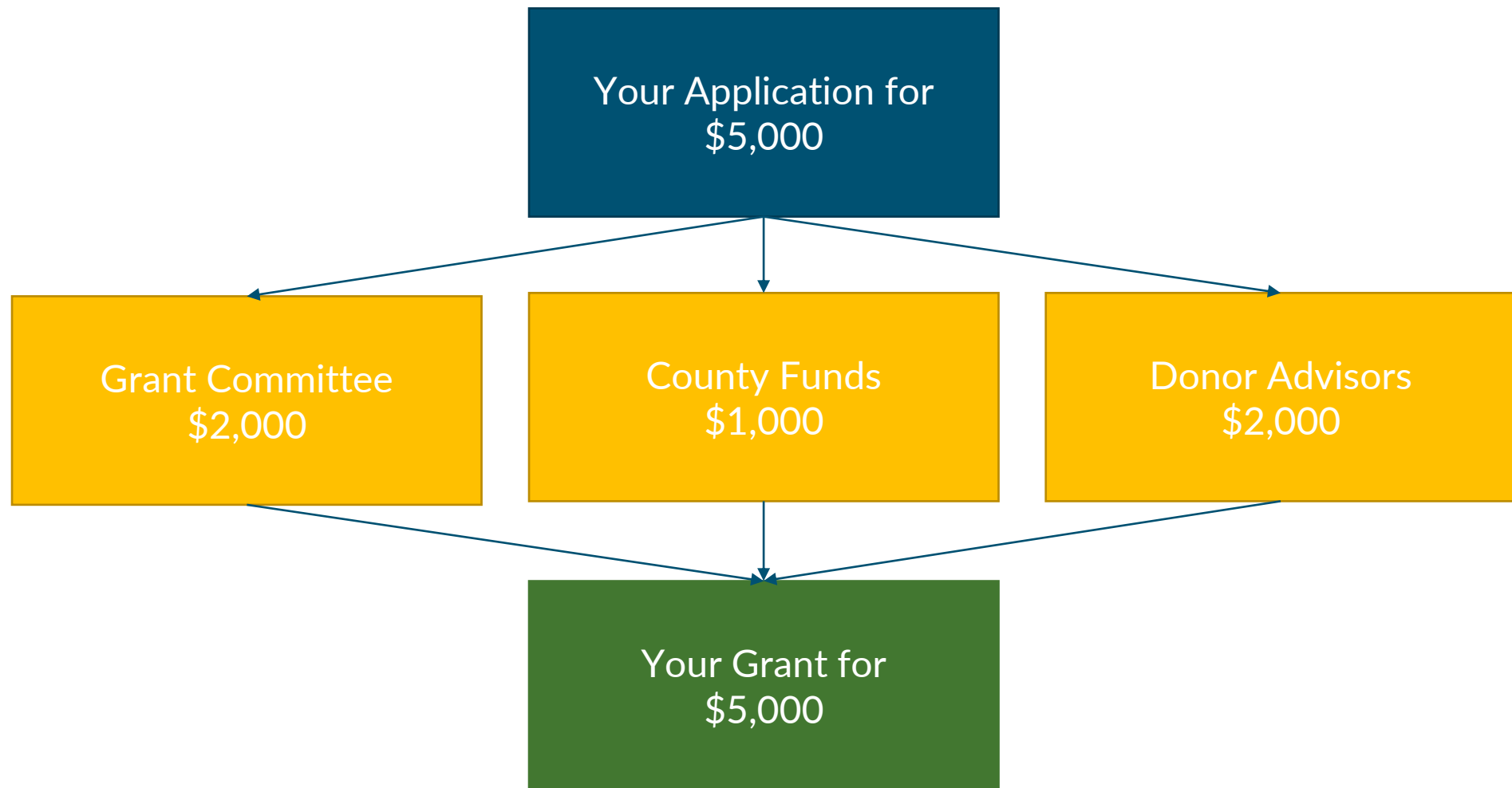
Monroe County, MO Endowment Fund

Pike County, IL Endowment Fund

Shelby County, MO Endowment Fund

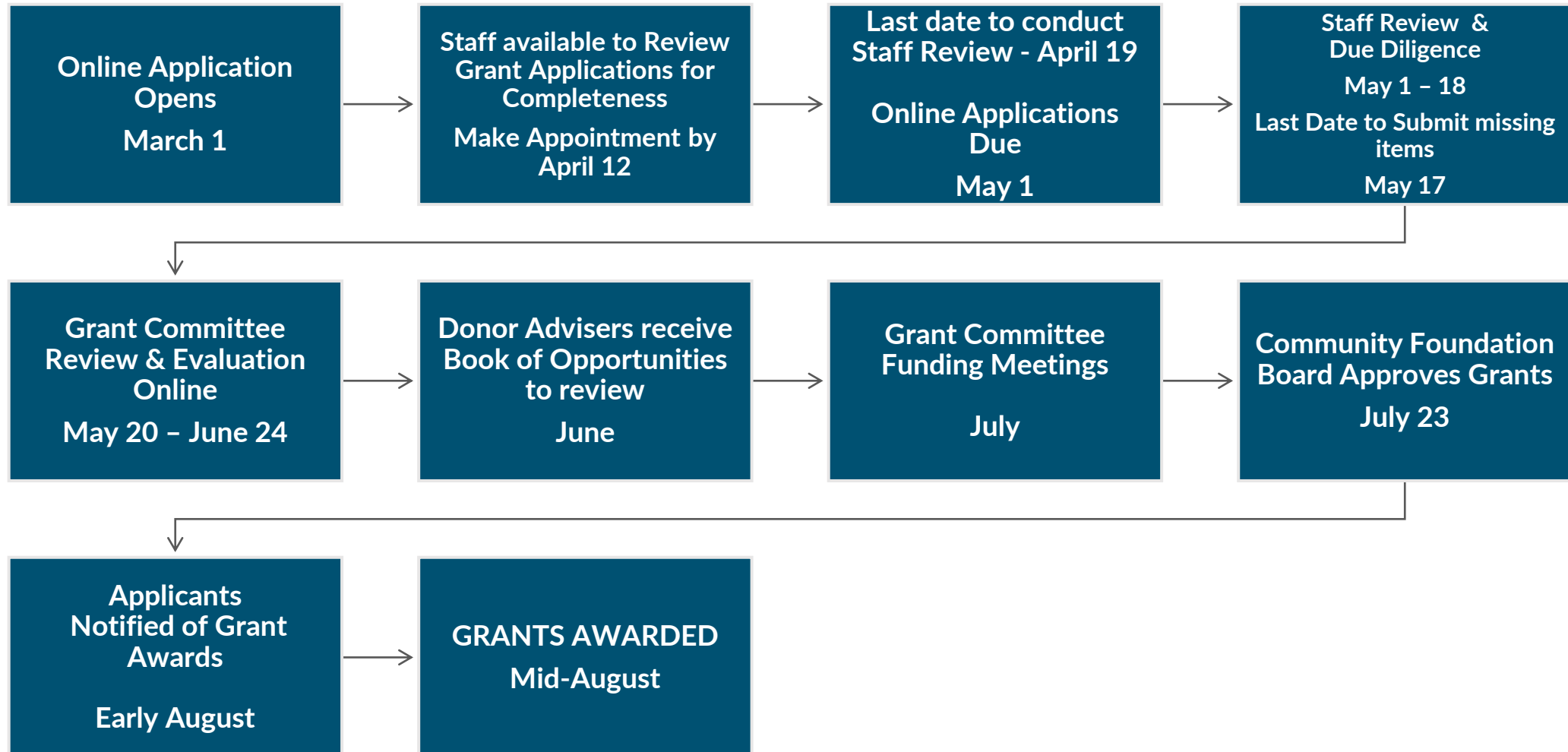


# One Application, Multiple Funding Sources





# 2024 Community Grant Timeline





# Grant Evaluation

Our Grant Committee evaluates applications according to the following strengths and weaknesses:

- Community Need/Opportunity
- Innovation & Collaboration
- Impact on Population Served
- Planning & Measurement
- Impact of Community Foundation Funding
- Financials/Sustainability
- Alignment with Fund Intent

Refer to the Competitive Grant Program Description and the 'Grant Policy & Guidelines' Section 5 (page 6)

**TIP:** Your proposal should be more than a great idea – make sure you have a clear plan in place for carrying out the program.





# How to Apply

[Donate Now](#)

[Home](#) / [Board Member Portal](#) / [Donor Advisors Portal](#)

[Nonprofit Login](#)



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## Community Grants

Annually, the Community Foundation invites qualified organizations in its 12-county service area to apply for a Community Grant.





# Online Grants Portal



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## Logon

Email Address\*

Password\*

Log On

Create New Account

[Forgot your Password?](#)

Welcome to the Community Foundation's online grant making system!

### Tutorials

- [Video Tutorial 1: Site Access & Account Creation](#) (3 minutes long)
- [Video Tutorial 2: Applying for Funding](#) (5 minutes long)
- [Video Tutorial 3: Your Applicant Dashboard](#) (3 minutes long)
- [Written Tutorial](#)



# Apply Screen

Community Foundation Serving West Central Illinois & Northeast Missouri

Kent Embree ▾



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APPLY



ORGANIZATION HISTORY

ROLE (APPLICANT) ▾

## 2024 Community Grants Program

Accepting Submissions from 03/01/2024 to  
05/01/2024

Apply

### Community Grants (formerly Competitive Grants)

The Community Foundation annually awards grants from Field of Interest and Unrestricted Endowment Funds through its *Community Grant* process to meet needs and advance opportunities in its 12-county region. Grants are made based on funds available including those that are restricted for specific geographic and/or interest areas. Through the *Community Grant* program, the Community Foundation seeks to honor the intent of the endowments that fund the program while strengthening nonprofit services to ultimately enhance the quality of life throughout the region that we serve.

### Eligibility Requirements

Grants may be awarded to:

- Nonprofit organizations that are recognized as exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code
- Government entities applying for grants that are exclusively for public or charitable purposes
- Faith-based organizations applying for grants that benefit the public good, but not for specifically religious or sectarian purposes, or programs that require participation in a religious activity as a condition for receiving services.
- Applicant organizations and grants awarded must serve at least one of the following 12 counties: Adams, Brown, Hancock, or Pike in Illinois; Clark, Knox, Lewis, Marion, Monroe, Pike, Ralls, or Shelby in Missouri.

### Grant Criteria:

- Grants will be made for programs and projects in the areas of arts and culture, community betterment, education, health, and human services.
- Applications may be submitted for program/project support or general operating support; however, all applications will be evaluated using the same criteria.



# More Helpful Hints

- How does this request fit within your organization's unique mission?
- Right-size your request -- a \$7,500 request for a \$750,000 budget won't go very far.
- Convey impact – who will this funding ultimately support and what will it achieve?
- Be specific – anticipate what questions someone unfamiliar with your program might have.
- Be realistic – what can you achieve within the bounds of your capacity and limitations of this and other funding?
- If it's a long-standing program, how will this funding enhance it? What's changed? Has need increased?
- Will, or can, these dollars be used to leveraged additional funding (e.g., a match)?
- Review Field of Interest fund descriptions – do any describe your mission or project?





# Even More...

- Define acronyms and abbreviations. Don't assume reviewers know what they mean!
- If you're applying for operating support, how will this grant fill a gap, strengthen this work, or build your capacity? How will it help you achieve your mission? What other sources of operating support do you have?
- If you received a competitive grant in 2023, your grant report must be completed by June 1 in order to be eligible for a 2024 community grant.
- If you need clarification on any questions or document requirements, ***call us!***
- Have the Community Foundation review your application before you submit. Deadline for request is **April 12, 2024.**



# Thank You!

## Questions?

Reach us at: 217-222-1237

**Kent Embree**

kembree@mycommunityfoundation.org

[www.mycommunityfoundation.org](http://www.mycommunityfoundation.org)

[Facebook.com/mycommunityfoundation](https://Facebook.com/mycommunityfoundation)