Community Grant Program Description

Community Grants

The Community Foundation annually awards grants through its *Community Grant* process to meet needs and advance opportunities in its 12-county region. 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 directly 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 project/program support or general operating support; however, all applications will be evaluated using the same criteria.

Priorities:

Through the *Community Grant* program, the Community Foundation seeks to award grants that will:
1) Enable unique, innovative, or proven solutions to demonstrated community needs and opportunities;
2) Make a significant impact on the success of the overall request;
3) Assist the organization in expanding or enhancing the delivery of its mission, particularly for underserved or at-risk populations;
4) Leverage community collaborations to maximize the impact on the community and population served;
5) Reach a significant number of community members or specific groups of underserved community members throughout its 12-county service area.

Application Overview

1) Summary: Provide basic information about your organization, request, focus area, and geographic area served.
2) Community Need or Opportunity: Describe why the request is needed and the population it serves.
3) Proposal Plan: Provide a description of your plan for execution of the grant money and how it will be used, including timing, collaborations with other entities, and key staff members.

4) Goals & Measuring Results: Describe anticipated results and how you'll know if it's successful.
5) Budget & Financials: Provide a budget for the proposed project or program, an organizational budget, and financial statements.

Amount Available:
- Grants range from $1,000 up to $7,500 and partial funding may be awarded.

Timeline:
- March 1: Application opens on Community Foundation website.
- April 12: Deadline to schedule appointment to review completed application draft from Community Foundation staff. *Appointment must be scheduled online:* Book time with Kent Embree, Program Officer
- April 19: Last date to participate in application review appointment with Community Foundation staff.
- May 1: Application closes at 11:59 p.m.
- Early August: Applicants notified of award decisions.
- Mid-August: Grants awarded.