Policy on Grants

As Revised and Approved October 2026

Allegany County Area Foundation

The ACAF Board of Directors (Board) shall approve each grant made by the Foundation, and the Board's decision shall be final in all cases.

The primary focus of the Foundation's grant-making activities is the Allegany County area, and grant proposals will be expected to demonstrate significant benefit to the residents of Allegany County.

For all funds which are unrestricted as to the use of income or principal for charitable purposes, the principal will be retained as a permanent endowment, and grants will be made from current income. Any variance will require the specific approval of the board.

In determining the merits and priority of a grant application, consideration will be given to the following criteria:

- Seriousness of the problem and adequacy of the proposed action to meet the problem
- Breadth of the potential benefit in terms of the number of people served
- Capacity of the applicant organization and its personnel to achieve the expected benefits
- Availability of support from alternative public or private sources
- Possibility of future support to supplement or replace the proposed grant

Preference will be given to special projects on a non-recurring basis rather than to underwriting annual campaigns to fund current operations. In general, the Foundation will not support building campaigns.

Except for specially designated scholarship funds, or where expressly permitted in a grant fund, the Foundation will not award financial assistance to individuals.

The Foundation will support the development of a new organization only when, in the judgment of the Board, no effective institution exists in the community to carry out a needed program or purpose.

Grants will not be made to religious organizations for primarily religious purposes or activity. A religious organization will be considered for a grant in support of a project or activity that is intended for general public benefit and/or use.

Grants will not be made to any permanent endowment of the applicant organization.

Grant applications for artwork (including but not limited to painting, music, theater production, sculpture, spoken and written word, public art, monuments and markers) must include a rendering and or description of the final artwork. The Foundation reserves the right to request additional information as needed. The Foundation reserves the right to decline grant requests for artwork that violates generally accepted community standards, is politically motivated or that it otherwise considers offensive or controversial.

Grant application for activities and projects that are political or partisan in nature will not be considered.

No grant will be made to an organization that does not demonstrate adequate accounting and reporting procedures. Recipients of grants from restricted and unrestricted funds will be required to submit an evaluative report upon completion of the supported program or project. In the case of multiple year awards, an annual progress report will be required.

Grant recipients are required to deposit their grant award check within six (6) months of the date of issuance. Checks remaining uncashed after this period will be considered void, and the grant award may be forfeited.

The Grant Committee has the option to recommend grants for emergent needs or emergency situations without a grant application. Such shall be subject to board approval and recipients shall provide qualifying information on request and shall provide the required evaluation form.

All grants will be made in accordance with current regulations issued pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code, as amended. Any private organization that does not have a current tax exemption letter will contract to fulfill specific operational obligations appropriate to the charitable purposes of the Foundation.

The Foundation Grant Committee will meet every two months but may make schedule adjustments and/or hold ad hoc meetings as needed. The committee will generally meet in person, though meetings may be held via phone or teleconference.