



Community Funds Guidelines for Grant Seekers

Toledo Community Foundation, Inc. is a public charitable organization created by citizens of our community to enrich the quality of life for individuals and families in our service area. The Foundation serves Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan with a particular emphasis on the greater Toledo area. Grants from Community Funds support a variety of programs in the fields of education, social services, physical and mental health, neighborhood and urban affairs, natural resources, and the arts.

We have a particular interest in providing seed money for new programs designed to meet emerging community needs or to expand existing successful programs. Emphasis is placed on programs that will: (a) Create safe, positive living environments; (b) Enable families to develop the skills/resources needed to support and nurture each member; and (c) Foster the development of responsible young people who are capable of achieving their fullest potential.

Grants are awarded only to nonprofit, charitable organizations which have been designated as having tax-exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service code.

Grant Application Process

The Foundation considers grant requests three times annually. The deadline dates for proposals are: **January 15, May 15 and September 1. Proposals must be submitted through the Foundation's online application process.** The online application can be accessed via the Foundation's website at www.toledocf.org. Proposals, including all required attachments, must be received by midnight of the application deadline in order to be considered for funding.

All grant applications are carefully reviewed by the Foundation's professional staff and Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees meets approximately 3-1/2 months subsequent to each deadline date to make funding decisions. Applicant organizations are notified, in writing, of the approval or denial of funding requests within one week after the Board of Trustees takes action. Project expenses incurred by an applicant organization prior to notification cannot be paid by the Foundation.

Contents of a Proposal

The following information must be included in all proposals:

- **Purpose and Need** - State the goals and objectives of the project. Identify the problems or needs which will be addressed. Identify the population that will benefit from this project or program. (750 word limit)
- **Implementation** - Summarize the plans and timeframe for implementation of this project. Identify the individual(s) who will be responsible for overseeing the program and briefly describe their qualifications. (250 word limit)
- **Evaluation** - State the criteria and procedure that will be used to evaluate the success of the proposed program. Relate this evaluation to the stated goals and objectives. (250 word limit)
- **Future Support** - Identify plans for securing ongoing operational support for this project once Foundation funds are expended. Include anticipated future financial needs of the program, potential sources of funding, etc. (250 word limit)

- **Project Budget Information** - Provide a one-page project budget as an attachment, which includes the following information: projected income and expenses; all sources of program funding (both solicited and received); and the period (beginning and ending dates) for which funds are being requested.

Attachments

The following attachments must be included with all proposals:

- The names and affiliations of the applicant organization's Board of Trustees.
- Brief background/history of the requesting organization, including: when and how the organization was established; its mission/purpose; accomplishments to date; and a listing of all current programs and services.
- The organization's most recent audit. If audited financial statements are not available, the unaudited income and expense statement and balance sheet must be provided.
- The organization's current operating budget.
- Copy of the applicant's tax exemption letter from the Internal Revenue Service.
- Project budget information (as referenced in the previous section).

Grant Review Criteria

- Encourage more efficient use of community resources.
- Promote coordination, cooperation and sharing among organizations and the elimination of duplicated services.
- Test or demonstrate new approaches and techniques in the solution of community problems.
- Focus on the prevention of problems rather than the cure.
- Represent an unduplicated opportunity and meet a significant community need.
- Propose a specific program rather than general operating support for the organization.
- Propose to strengthen nonprofit organizations by improving internal management and systems.
- Propose to generate matching funds, thus leveraging additional support.
- Include a thoughtful, reasonable plan for obtaining continuing financial support from internal and/or external sources once Foundation funds are expended.

The Foundation *usually* will not make grants from its Community Funds to:

- Support the general operating budget (or budget deficit) of established organizations.
- Annual campaigns.
- Capital campaigns.
- Purchase equipment, such as computer hardware/software, motor vehicles, etc.
- Produce films, videos, television programs, etc.
- Support sectarian activities of religious organizations.

For additional information, please write or call:

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