Community Resilience Fund
Request for Proposals

Greater Toledo Community Foundation is a public charitable organization created by citizens of our community to enrich the quality of life for individuals and families. As a place-based funder, the Foundation is prepared to leverage its resources to support sudden and unexpected needs that arise in our community. In March 2020, Greater Toledo Community Foundation created the COVID-19 Response Fund to support area nonprofits that stepped up to provide immediate basic needs items like food, personal protective equipment and shelter to residents who were disproportionately affected by the virus and its immediate impacts. While the need to provide these services persist, it is now time to address long-term recovery efforts as well.

To assist the Greater Toledo region in transitioning to a sustainable recovery, the Foundation created the Community Resilience Fund. Nonprofit organizations providing services in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan are invited to submit requests up to $15,000 to the fund. Through a competitive process, the Foundation will consider proposals in the following categories:

1. **Long-Term Service Provision**: In this category, funding will prioritize service delivery to residents who have been impacted by COVID-19 related circumstances. Proposals for Long-Term Service Provision should focus on interventions that assist residents in stabilizing their lives after experiencing impacts caused by the outbreak. These activities may include, but are not limited to, job training programs for the recently unemployed or mental health services for residents who have been traumatized.

2. **Organizational Restructuring**: In this category, proposals should focus on lessons learned at an organizational level, and the strategies agencies could employ in the future to be better positioned to ensure stability and resiliency in the face of future unexpected crisis. It is anticipated that proposals would include best practice models currently being used in the applicants sector, incorporate new tactics based on geographical alignment with other providers to re-envision services, or utilize technology in service delivery to build capacity. Projects that build partnerships or alliances with other providers to strengthen service delivery systems will be prioritized. Organizations proposing significant partnerships including shared back office strategies or potential mergers, should also consider applying for support through the Strategic Alliance Partnership opportunity. More details on that grant opportunity can be found on the grants page at [www.toledofc.org](http://www.toledofc.org). Note: applying for Strategic Alliance Partnership funding will not impact the review process for the Community Resilience Fund opportunity.

Grants will only be awarded to nonprofit, charitable organizations which have been designated as having tax-exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service code. The Fund seeks applications from organizations with a demonstrated track record of service provision through
established programs. Grants are not intended to support start-up programs. Applications seeking to offset loss of revenue as a result of cancelled fundraising events, lost program fees or third-party reimbursements will not be considered.

**Grant Application Process**

This funding opportunity includes three deadline dates set for **July 15, August 30 and October 15**. 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](http://www.toledocf.org). Proposals must be received by 11:59 p.m. 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. Determinations on grant applications will be announced approximately six weeks after each deadline date. Project expenses incurred by an applicant organization prior to notification cannot be paid by the Foundation.

**Grant Review Criteria – Competitive grant proposals will:**

- Promote coordination, cooperation and sharing among organizations. Applications which propose deep partnerships among organizations will receive high priority consideration.
- Demonstrate a clear understanding of other organizations providing similar services in the immediate geographic area and represent an unduplicated opportunity to meet a significant community need. Applicant organizations are encouraged to become familiar with and reference appropriate community associations. Examples include, but are not limited to, the Autism Provider Network of Northwest Ohio, the Sustainability Commission or LiveWell Greater Toledo. Additionally, the United Way’s 211 system provides capabilities to access comprehensive lists of service providers in the region.
- Demonstrate a clear understanding of relevant community planning documents and how the proposed program may correspond to and advance those plans leading to more efficient use of community resources. Examples of relevant planning documents include, but are not limited to, County Community Health Assessments, the Toledo-Lucas County Going Beyond Green Sustainability Plan, the Arts Commission of Greater Toledo’s Strategic Plan for Arts & Culture, various county plans for Mental Health and Recovery Services, the Area Office on Aging 2019-2022 Strategic Plan, the Northwest Ohio/Southeast Michigan Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, Framework for Tutoring Services (Greater Toledo Community Foundation/Lourdes University) and the City of Toledo Neighborhood Plans.
- Propose a specific program rather than general operating support for the organization.
- Propose to generate matching funds, thus leveraging additional support and include a thoughtful, reasonable plan for obtaining continuing financial support once Foundation funds are expended.

**This Fund will not make grants to:**

- Support the general operating budget or budget deficit of established organizations.
- Annual campaigns.
- Support sectarian activities of religious organizations.
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.

- **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.

- **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.

- **Sustainability** – Identify plans for securing ongoing support for this project once Foundation funds are expended. Include anticipated future financial needs of the program, potential sources of funding, etc.

- **Project Budget** – Attach a one-page project budget, which:
  1. specifies the requested grant period;
  2. delineates line-item expenses that clearly detail the proposed use of grant funds; and
  3. lists projected income (both solicited and received) and expenses for the proposed project.

Attachments – The following attachments must be submitted with every grant application made to Greater Toledo Community Foundation. Please pay close attention to the details or your application may be considered incomplete. Acceptable file types include Word, Excel and PDF only. Required attachments include:

- **Board List** – The names and affiliations of the organization’s Board of Trustees.

- **IRS Letter** – A copy of the organization’s tax exemption letter from the Internal Revenue Service.

- **Background** – Brief background and history of the organization, including when and how the organization was established, its mission or purpose, accomplishments to date and a listing of all current programs and services.

- **Financial Statements** – There are two options for submission of financial statements, which include:
  1. Option 1 – If the organization has had an audit prepared within 12 months of the date of application, please provide the full audit; or
  2. Option 2 – If audited financial statements for this time frame are not available, provide the unaudited income & expense statement (P&L) and balance sheet for the organization’s most recent fiscal year-end. Note that both statements must be submitted if this option is selected.

- **Operating Budget** – A board-approved operating budget for the current fiscal year of the organization.

- **Project Budget** (as referenced in the previous section).

For further information, or to discuss a possible submission, please contact:
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