



2021 Community Grants Program Guidelines

Inquiries: To make an inquiry to the Community Grants program, please go to www.donorswhocare.org and log-in or create an account at the link provided under our “Grant Seekers” tab. After successfully logging on, click the highlighted link “2021 Community Grants,” complete and submit the “LOI”. If the inquiry is selected by our panel, you will be asked to complete a full application.

Application: An invitation to apply to the Community Grants program will be required. Panel members will review all LOI’s submitted and will choose the proposed projects that they would like to extend an invitation to apply. Visit www.donorswhocare.org under the “Grant Seekers” tab for in-depth instructions and links to tutorial videos. Contact Tina Barber, Program Officer at tbarber@donorswhocare.org if you are unable to access information on-line.

LOI Submission Deadline:

- **Tuesday, February 23rd, 2021 for the Spring Cycle**
- **Friday, August 13th , 2021 for the Fall Cycle**

Application (If Invited) Submission Deadline:

- **Monday, March 29th, 2021 for the Spring Cycle**
- **Monday, September 20th for the Fall Cycle**

New for 2021- The maximum award for all requests has been increased to \$20,000
-An expanded LOI will be utilized to choose organizations that will then be invited to submit a full application
-Organizations will be asked about their commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
-Program areas of interest have been more clearly defined

Note:

- An organization may submit only one proposal to the Community Grants program during a calendar year.
- Organizations may not resubmit a proposal for a project previously funded or declined by the Community Foundation unless given permission to do so by Program Officer.
- To support the need for their project, applicants are strongly encouraged to utilize and specifically reference information in any of the foundation’s regional need assessments which are located on our website: www.donorswhocare.org.
- Capital requests (repairs, equipment, etc.) require a minimum of 2 estimates.

Who May Qualify?

- Any 501(c)(3) where a grant will benefit significantly (but not necessarily exclusively) residents of the Foundation's service area: Broome, Chenango, Delaware, Otsego and/or Tioga counties.
- Certain local government agencies, municipalities and public-school systems within the Foundation's service area.
- Organizations requiring a 501(c)(3) as a fiscal sponsor may be eligible to apply.

Types of Support Available:

The areas of support for which qualified organizations may apply are listed below. The minimum award will be \$5,001 and the maximum award will be \$20,000. If your request is for \$5,000 or under, please utilize the Small Grants Program.

Program

– Programs that address a specific, demonstrated community need. The foundation is especially interested in programs that strengthen diversity, equity and inclusion in the following systems: housing, mental health, criminal justice, education and food security.

Capital

– Proposals for property purchase, equipment purchase, facilities improvement, and capital campaigns. A minimum of 2 estimates must accompany a capital request.

Operating Support

– Proposals from established organizations that are in financial distress due to a reduction in traditional funding sources for operations (e.g. individual contributions, event revenue, federal/state/local budget reductions). We will also consider requests for short-term assistance that will improve long-term sustainability.

Capacity Building

- Proposals that build organizational capacity. Of particular interest are proposals that build the organizations capacity to strengthen diversity, equity and inclusion in to both operations and programming.

Economic and Community Development

- Proposals that strengthen the community by strengthening the local economy and encourage local ownership and development of resources particularly in underserved communities.

We Do Not Consider Requests For:

- Funding to reimburse an organization for costs that were incurred prior to the date the grant was awarded.
- Funding to pay existing mortgages
- Grants to individuals
- Funding for religious purposes
- In general, funding to organizations that have so many counterparts (e.g. scout troops, ambulance squads, volunteer or municipal fire departments, individual schools within a school district, individual school classrooms, PTAs) that it would be difficult to assess the relative merits of similar proposals. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the Program Officer and Executive Director based on the urgency of the community need.

We are happy to answer any questions you may have about submission procedures or the development of your on-line application. Please contact Tina Barber, Program Officer, at 607-206-5180 or via e-mail: tbarber@donorswhocare.org.

