

Grantmaking Guidelines/Policies

The Allamakee County Community Foundation welcomes proposals for projects that benefit a broad spectrum of the community or a chronically underserved segment of the population. We look for projects which:

- Address **significant** community issues
- Present **innovative**, creative, and practical proposals which build on community strengths
- Present **clear** work plans which show the ability to achieve the project's goal
- Focus on strategic innovations that encourage **cooperation**, create efficiencies and reduce duplication of services
- Develop the **leadership** potential of the community
- Involve the people served in the **planning and implementation** of the program
- Demonstrate quality, **vision**, effectiveness, collaboration and good management;
- Provide a plan for **sustainability** beyond the funding period

Funding:

- The maximum award granted is \$20,000.
- Multi-year applications will be considered if a project will take multiple years to complete. ACCF will also consider grant applications year-to-year to fund different phases of a project.
- While all registered 501(c)3 public charities, schools, churches and local governments based in the U.S. are eligible to apply to the program, it is focused primarily on those with an annual total revenue under \$3 million. Applicants with an annual total revenue over \$3 million must demonstrate why existing funds cannot be used to support the proposed initiative.

Eligibility:

- Nonprofit 501(c)3 organizations, churches, schools or government organizations that provide services within Allamakee County
- Organizations who do not have 501(c)3 status are encouraged to find a qualifying agency to sponsor them. A **Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement** must be attached to the application.
 - Examples of organizations and sponsors:
 - Elementary School sponsored by School Board*
 - Park and Rec Board sponsored by City Council*
- School districts may apply for each building with sponsorship from the district school board:
 - Postville Elementary, Middle & High School (3)
 - Eastern Allamakee: Elementary, Middle and High School (3)
 - Allamakee: West, East, Middle, Sr. High. (4)
 - St. Patrick's School (1)

Requirements:

- Organizations must be operated and organized in compliance with applicable laws prohibiting discrimination
- Organizations must provide a cash match of at least 25% of the grant request. Matching funds must be raised prior to receiving a check.
- Recipients will be required to complete a written report on the project before the end of the calendar year.

What we do not fund:

- Operating support such as wages or utilities.
- Budget deficit
- Individuals
- Religious purposes (this does not exclude grants to religious organizations for non-religious purposes)
- Political, labor, religious, fraternal or service organizations
- Event sponsorships

Areas of Funding

We award grants in the areas of Health and Human Services, Education, Neighborhoods and Community Development, the Environment, Children, Youth, and Families, and Arts and Culture.

1. Health & Human Services

Encompasses social service projects that benefit the underserved segments of our community. For example, issues of homelessness, health care, hunger, poverty, and the elderly.

- Empower the underserved to seek solutions
- Promote self-sufficiency
- Programs that focus on long-term approaches to issues
- Provide independence to the elderly and/or to persons with disabilities
- Improve access to health care
- Strengthen the capacity of human service organizations to serve their constituencies

2. Education

Encompass community education projects that serve all age groups and segments of our population.

- Increase literacy and basic skills development
- Develop efforts that address the needs of students who are most at-risk for dropping out of school or not enrolled
- Promote inclusiveness and diversity
- Provide creative approaches to improvement of our educational system.

3. Neighborhoods and Community Development

Programs that address community and neighborhood development, both social and economic.

- Encourage community responsibility for solving community problems
- Develop leadership opportunities for youth, minorities and the economically disadvantaged
- Benefit the community's low-and moderate-income population
- Ensure equal-opportunity in housing, services, and economic opportunity
- Build capacity for non-profits and neighborhood organizations

4. Our Environment

Programs that address our natural resources and environment.

- Enhance awareness of regional environmental issues
- Encourage responsible stewardship and conservation of our natural resources

5. Children, Youth & Families

Programs that enhance the quality of life for children and youth through opportunities to enhance their intellectual, emotional, physical, and social development.

- Support models that encourage an alliance of shared responsibility and coordination of resources among schools, parents and community-based organizations
- Enhance life options of youth through such means as improved basic skills and development of work, life management, and leadership development skills; and reduction of risk-taking behaviors.
- Support efforts to enhance parental understanding of strategies they can use to improve the educational attainment of their children.

6. Arts and Culture

Programs that increase access to and awareness of arts and culture.

- Encourage participation and heighten awareness in the arts and culture among underserved populations.
- Increase public exposure to and appreciation of different ethnic and cultural art forms. Support efforts that encourage life-long learning opportunities