

Grantmaking Guidelines/Policies

Starting in 2026, the CCFF Board has taken a particular interest in prioritizing projects and programs that address human services and social determinants of health. Social determinants of health are the non-medical conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes. The Foundation also welcomes proposals for projects that benefit a broad spectrum of the community or a chronically underserved segment of the population and fit within any of the six categories on pages 2-3. We look for projects which:

- Build capacity, enabling nonprofit organizations to strengthen their boards and governance, enhance internal management, and strategically plan for the future, all while focusing on fulfilling their mission
- Enhance community impact and increase organization effectiveness and efficiency through strategic collaboration, including strategic innovations that encourage cooperation, create efficiencies and reduce duplication of services
- 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, and provide a plan for sustainability beyond the funding period
- 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

Eligibility:

- Nonprofit 501(c)3 tax-exempt, not-for-profit agency or affiliated with a public agency/unit of government (County, City, School) operating and providing services within Clayton 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.
 - Example of organizations and sponsors:
 - Park and Rec Board sponsored by City Council
- Applicants must demonstrate a 50% cash match of the requested amount.
- Maximum grant request amount for this grant cycle is \$2,000.00. Award amounts are at the discretion of the CCFF Board and subject to available funding dollars.

How to apply:

Organizations must submit applications via the online grants management system, [GOapply](#). Applications received after the deadline listed on our webpage will not be accepted.

- Organizations are required to sign a grant agreement before funding is released.
- Grants will be announced in late April and presented at a celebration in mid-May.
- We ask that at least one person from the organization receiving the grant attend.
- All projects must be initiated and completed by the end of the year the award is made.

- Upon completion of the project, but before 1/31 following the year the grant was awarded, the grant recipient will be required to submit a final grant report. Any organization that has not filed the previous year's report will not be eligible for funding the following year.

What We Fund:

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, including historic preservation.

1. Health & Human Services

Encompasses social service projects that benefit the underserved segments of our community. For example, issues of homelessness, health care, brain health, 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 experiences.

What we don't fund:

The Clayton County Foundation for the Future does not make grants for event sponsorships/expenses. The board may decide to award a grant to a group planning a recurring event if the request increases event sustainability.

Example of an event request we would not fund: A general event sponsorship.

Example of an event request we would consider funding: Equipment or technology to be used year after year for a community event or for shared use among multiple community events that meet the criteria on page 1 and fit in one of our six funding areas above

Questions?

Contact Emily Sadewasser, Clayton County Foundation for the Future Executive Director at ccff@dbqfoundation.org or 563-880-6044. Contact the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque at 563-588-2700.