

Grantmaking Guidelines/Policies

Starting in 2019, the FFDC Board has taken a particular interest in the needs of families. Projects and programs with the goal of strengthening families will be prioritized in this year's grantmaking cycle. The Foundation also 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

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 Delaware 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

- Organizations may apply for up to \$5,000 for their projects

Requirements:

- Organizations are required to sign a grant agreement before funding is released
- A project report is required to be filed at the end of the project.
 - This report will include a requirement of uploading receipts from the project to prove expenses
 - Any organization that has not filed the previous year's report will not be eligible for funding the year following

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, 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 do not fund

In general, grants are not made from Community Needs Fund for the following:

Ongoing project support and operating support

Annual and capital campaigns

Equipment, unless it is essential for the program

Budget deficit

Endowments

Individuals

Recurring Funds

Religious purposes (this does not exclude grants to religious organizations)

One day events