Clayton County
Foundation for the Future, Inc.
An affiliate of the Community Foundation
of Greater Dubuque

700 Locust St., Suite 195, Dubuque IA 52001
563.588.2700 | dbqfoundation.org/ccff

Grantmaking Guidelines/Policies

Starting in 2023, the CCFF board has taken a particular interest in education and the needs of youth. Projects and programs with the goal of youth enrichment 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:

- 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
- 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 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 25% cash match of the requested amount.
- Maximum grant request amount for this grant cycle is $1,000.00

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

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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.