

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF SOUTHERN INDIANA

Grant Program Guidelines and Policies

In order to fulfill most effectively its philanthropic responsibilities within the limits of its resources, the Community Foundation's grant program will emphasize focused and effective types of grants. These grant guidelines and policies apply only to the **unrestricted** philanthropic funds of the Foundation and not to those funds for which the beneficiary or beneficiaries have been designated by the donor or for which the donor has restricted the use of a particular fund to a specific charitable purpose or geographic area. Those designated and restricted funds are administered separately in line with their respective donor agreements.

Areas of Interest

The Community Foundation considers needs which generally fall into the following categories:

1. Arts and Culture - to support programs and facilities that are designed to establish a diversified cultural program that offers widespread opportunities for participation and appreciation.
2. Community Development - to support programs related to community development, e.g. citizen involvement, leadership training, and general community programs and projects.
3. Education - to support projects and supplementary educational programs for pre-school, secondary and post-secondary students. (See limitations regarding direct funding for schools under Grant Policies in this document.)
4. Environment - to support environmental education and activities which help to enhance and maintain a healthy environment.
5. Health - to support programs which have direct impact on the health of the community through education and treatment.
6. Human Services – to support human service programs which assist residents with day-to-day needs such as shelter, food and transportation; and programs that assist residents in becoming more self-sufficient and improving their quality of life.
7. Recreation – to provide opportunities in the community for leisure and family friendly activities.
8. Youth Development – to support the healthy growth of young people, especially through those organizations which promote the 40 Developmental Assets developed by the Search Institute.

GRANT GUIDELINES

1. The broad purpose of the Community Foundation of Southern Indiana is to improve the quality of life for the residents of Clark, Floyd and Harrison Counties, now and in the future.
2. The foundation will strive to maintain both a proactive focus and an ability to respond to creative ideas from grant seekers.
3. Grant funding will encourage programs that enhance cooperation and collaboration among organizations within our community.

In reviewing grant applications, the Foundation will give careful consideration to:

- (1) The potential impact of the request and the number of people who will benefit;
- (2) The innovative and experimental nature of the request;
- (3) Local volunteer and other support for the project;
- (4) The commitment of the requesting organization's governing board;
- (5) The degree to which the request works with or complements other community organizations in an attempt to eliminate duplication of services;
- (6) The organization's fiscal responsibility and management qualifications;
- (7) The possibility of using the grant as seed money for matching funds from other sources;
- (8) The ability of the organization to obtain any additional funding that may be needed to complete the project; and
- (9) The organization's ability to provide ongoing funding after the grant has expired.

GRANT POLICIES

1. Grants will be made only to organizations whose programs benefit the residents of Clark, Floyd and Harrison counties.
2. Grants from the Community Foundation must meet legal and tax requirements and may be made only to 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations and qualifying programs.
3. Grantees may be asked to submit a grant application and be interviewed by the Grants Committee or representatives of the Board of Directors.
4. Grantees must submit a final grant evaluation report.

The Community Foundation of Southern Indiana does not typically fund:

- Annual appeals, endowment funds, membership contributions or fundraising events
- Existing obligations, loans or debt retirement
- Long-term operating support
- Multi-year grants or repeat funding
- Medical, scientific or academic research
- Operating and construction costs at schools, universities and private academies unless there is significant opportunity for community use or collaboration
- Projects aimed at promoting a particular religion or construction projects of churches and other religious institutions
- Political campaigns, advocacy or direct lobbying efforts by 501(c)(3) organizations
- Services commonly regarded as the responsibility of governmental agencies, such as fire and police protection
- Travel for individuals, bands, sports teams, classes and similar groups