



The Porter County Community Foundation strengthens our community through lasting generosity and leadership. Our grants are awarded through an open process for humanitarian, cultural, educational and environmental purposes.

While the Foundation appreciates how important it is for all nonprofits to raise general operating support, we are not in a position to provide ongoing operating support to all the great organizations serving our community. Therefore, the Foundation is interested in funding requests that:

1. Increase the capacity of your organization through planning, training and professional development that leads to increased efficiency and sustainability. Recurring professional development opportunities such as annual conferences are not eligible for consideration.
2. Enhance the organization's efficiency through the acquisition of equipment and extraordinary expenses that occur that are difficult to budget for but are important for the long-term growth and vitality of the organization;
3. Expand successful programming in order to reach new or larger audiences;
4. Facilitate cooperation and collaboration among organizations for new, innovative programming.

THE FOUNDATION GENERALLY DOES NOT FUND:

- annual appeals or membership contributions;
- event sponsorships;
- programs that are sectarian or religious in nature;
- political organizations or candidates;
- contributions to endowment campaigns;
- campaigns to reduce previously incurred debt;
- individuals (except scholarships from scholarship funds);
- programs already completed and/or equipment already contracted for;
- travel for bands, sports teams and similar groups; and
- camp scholarships or fees related to camp programs.

Grant applications from **organizations headquartered outside of Porter County** need to identify that they have a facility or are operating a specific program in Porter County or they need to identify a Porter County partner that will sign as a co-applicant.

Organizations that operate on an **all volunteer** basis are encouraged to contact the Foundation's staff before submitting a proposal.

In considering grant applications, the Grant Committee needs to make difficult choices. There are always more requests than available funds. Here are some factors that the Committee considers:

1. Support for the request from sources other than the Foundation;
2. Evidence that the organization's Board provides meaningful financial support in addition to their governance responsibilities;
3. The overall financial strength of the organization; and
4. The impact of the request or the overall enhancement of the organization's capacity to better serve Porter County.
5. Prior grant award(s).

Additional Guidance:

1. The maximum grant amount is \$10,000.
2. The Foundation generally does not fund multi-year grants.
3. Site visits or additional information may be requested of applicants.
4. Notifications will be made approximately 60 days after the filing deadline.
5. Applications for equipment where the total cost exceeds \$50,000 must demonstrate that at least **60%** of the required funds have been raised before applying to the Foundation.

Organizations can receive a Community Fund grant only once per calendar year.

Grant proposals must be submitted by no later than 12:00 p.m. (Noon) on February 15, 2024 for the first cycle and August 15, 2024 for the second cycle.

The guidelines above are applicable to the February and August grant cycles for Community Fund grants only. Grants from the Women's Fund of Porter County and the Men's Fund, as well as funding for capital campaigns, have separate guidelines.

Note: Organizations seeking funding for a capital campaign should contact Caroline Schrenker at the Foundation.

GRANT QUESTIONS

1. Agency Information
 - a. Mission including date founded.
 - b. Major programs.
 - c. Number of staff.
 - d. Percentage of Board who contributes financially to your organization annually.
 - e. Describe current collaborations with other nonprofit organizations.

2. Project
 - a. Specific community need you will address.
 - b. Detailed description of how the proposed project will benefit your agency and/or the community.
 - c. Identify the specific population that will be served by the grant including demographic information and number of persons served.
 - d. The projects goals/objectives/outcomes.
 - e. Describe the timeline for completion of your proposal.
 - f. If other organizations are collaborating on this project, list them along with their role.

3. Project Sustainability
 - a. Describe your plan to sustain the project once the grant dollars have been expended. We are looking for a specific plan. If grant is for equipment, please indicate the expected life of the equipment and plans for future replacement if necessary.

4. Awareness
 - a. Describe how your organization will highlight and amplify the impact of this grant and the partnership with the Porter County Community Foundation to your constituents and community.