Porter County COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

2027 GRANT GUIDELINES

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 that serve Porter County. 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 dedicated organizations serving our community.

Therefore, the Foundation is interested in funding requests that:

- Increase the capacity of your organization through planning, training and professional development that leads to increased efficiency and sustainability.
- Enhance your 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;
- Expand successful programming in order to reach new or larger audiences;
- Facilitate cooperation and collaboration among organizations for new, innovative programming.

THE FOUNDATION GENERALLY DOES NOT FUND:

- Recurring professional development opportunities such as annual conferences;
- annual appeals or membership contributions;
- event sponsorships;
- programs that are sectarian or religious in nature (if you need clarification, please contact Caroline Schrenker at caroline@pccf.gives);
- political organizations, programs, 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, equipment, or uniforms for bands, sports teams, school clubs, 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 and/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 before submitting a proposal.

In considering grant applications, the Grant Committee needs to make difficult choices because there are always more requests than available funds. The Grant Committee considers the following factors when evaluating grant applications:

- Support for the request from sources other than the Foundation;
- Evidence that the organization's Board provides meaningful financial support in addition to their governance responsibilities;
- The overall financial strength of the organization;
- Project budgets that are clear, specific, and directly align with the need outlined in the project narrative;
- The impact of the request or the overall enhancement of the organization's capacity to better serve Porter County.
- The sustainability of the project and a solid plan outlining how the organization will sustain the project once the grant dollars have been expended;
- Tangible projects, programs, and/or equipment purchases generally receive higher evaluation scores than those that are predominantly for operational support (especially staff time).
- Prior grant award(s).

Additional Guidance:

- The maximum grant amount is $10,000.
- Grant funds will be delivered in-person after the project has been completed, the program has been implemented, and/or the equipment has been purchased.
- The Foundation generally does not fund multi-year grants.
- Organizations must have received IRS tax exempt status at least one full year before submitting a grant application.
- Site visits or additional information may be requested of applicants.
- Notifications will be made approximately 60 days after the application submission deadline.
- 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, 2027 for the Spring grant cycle and August 15, 2027 for the Fall grant 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 at **caroline@pccf.gives**.