
Community Foundation

of St. Clair County

The Community Foundation of St. Clair County is committed to the principles of good grantmaking and due diligence in the evaluation process of grant applications we receive. We want to make the “ask” as easy as possible. However, our staff also needs to ensure your application is complete and thorough, so it has the best opportunity for a favorable review by a committee or donor.

Our due diligence process includes but is not limited to the following;

- Grants are only made for charitable purposes
- You do not have to be a 501c3 to apply
- Grants are made to organizations that are financially stable and well managed
- Grantees are expected to provide full and complete information in their grant application, and will fully answer all questions from Foundation staff and requests for additional information
- From time-to-time grants may be awarded to new start-up charitable organizations with a compelling case for impact which aligns with the mission, goals and values of the Community Foundation

The Foundation’s Due Diligence and review process pays special attention to the following:

- For an ongoing activity, what is its future source of funding?
- Is the applying organization well run, with an active and well-qualified board and a competent staff capable of implementing the proposed activity?
- What is the organization’s current financial condition and fiscal history?
- Grant applicants will be expected to provide current financial statements, operating budgets, balance sheets and other relevant current information as may be requested. Failure to do so may result in Foundation staff declining to send the application on to appropriate grantmaking committees and/or donors
- Are there more logical sources of funding than the Community Foundation?
- Are there a variety of other funding opportunities?
- Is the proposed activity well-conceived and is its budget realistic?
- For project specific requests, does the project budget fully encompass all related expenses?
- Is the project well-conceived and likely to succeed?
- Does the applying organization have a successful track record with the Foundation?

Projects that will not be considered for funding in our Competitive Grantmaking work are those which involve:

- Sponsorships of individual sports teams and/or academic teams for contests, competitions and events
- Activities influencing legislative elections
- Activity/purpose that would violate the Foundation’s tax-exempt status under the IRS code
- Debt reduction, endowment fund support, deficit operations or venture capital funds.
- Direct support to Individuals (except for scholarships). From time-to-time these requests may be handled within other departments of the Foundation
- Private Foundations
- Unrestricted grants for activities that promote a religion or require participation in a religious activity as a condition for receiving services
- Provide a benefit only to members of a nonprofit membership organization

- Spreading hate, intolerance or discrimination of any kind

Accountability:

- After receipt of a grant and completion of the project the grant recipient will be expected to share outcomes, results and impact as may be requested by the Foundation
- Any funds not spent for the specific purpose of the grant must be returned to the Foundation

Recognition:

- Community Foundation asks that where appropriate, social media or other recognition mentions the support of the Community Foundation of St. Clair County and/or the committee that approved the grant.
- It is important to note in the application how you will promote the Community Foundation's involvement in making the project happen.
- Refer to Media Kit on website Grants page for current logos

Non-Discrimination in Grantmaking:

- The Community Foundation of St. Clair County is committed to promoting broad diversity and inclusion within our organization and the community. No one will be excluded from consideration for funding regardless of, but not limited to, the following basis: age, disability, family or economic circumstance, race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, spiritual beliefs, marital status or national origin
- In our grantmaking, we strive to partner with organizations that also embrace these beliefs and demonstrate them through their policies, practices, actions and impact.
- We seek grantees and partners that incorporate diversity and inclusion into their mission, governance board, staff, volunteers, vendors and constituents served
- Organizations that serve a specifically defined population in an effort to help populations overcome historic discrimination are not considered non-inclusive or discriminatory
- Organizations serving target populations per their mission, such as girls, babies or older adults, would not be considered discriminatory
- This inclusion statement applies to how an organization serves its specific target population as well as how it handles hiring and volunteer participation.