



Community Foundation of the Texas Hill Country

Community Impact Fund

2018 Grant Guidelines

About the Community Foundation

The Community Foundation of the Texas Hill Country is dedicated to improving the quality of life for all residents of the local area, specifically, Bandera, Edwards, Gillespie, Kendall, Kerr, Real, and Uvalde counties.

The Community Foundation stewards hundreds of charitable funds for individuals, families, and businesses. It also provides nonprofits with professional development opportunities, investment support, and financial grants.

About the Community Impact Fund

These guidelines apply to the Community Impact Fund, the Community Foundation's competitive grantmaking process for nonprofit organizations. Through the Foundation's Community Impact Fund, it invests in four areas: **arts and culture**, **basic human needs**, **environment**, and **youth development**. This document describes the goals for each of the four focus areas and provides tips for successful proposals.

To strengthen a proposal, please review the following resources before applying:

1. These grant guidelines, which explain the Foundation's community impact areas, its priorities and strategies, and submission requirements.
2. The Grants section on the Foundation's website, including Frequently Asked Questions page, which offers additional information about the Foundation's work and guidance on applying for grants in the four community impact areas.
3. Please email or call the Foundation or schedule a pre-application meeting with a Foundation staff member, who's eager to discuss ideas and programs and help determine what meets the Community Impact Fund's criteria.

Contact the Foundation

To arrange a time to talk with a Foundation staff member, please call 830-896-8811 and ask to speak with the Grants & Scholarships Manager.

Community Impact Fund Grants in 2018

The Community Foundation of the Texas Hill Country makes grants through its Community Impact Fund: a responsive, open, competitive application process with only one annual deadline. The Community Impact Fund invests in four areas: **arts and culture**, **basic human needs**, **environment**, and **youth development**. The Foundation considers both general operating support and program support.

Eligibility

- Located in or providing services to residents in Bandera, Edwards, Gillespie, Kendall, Kerr, Real, or Uvalde counties.
- Classified as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit by the Internal Revenue Service.
- A minimum of 12 months of operating history after 501(c)(3) determination.
- Annual operating expenses greater than \$35,000.
- Organizations with annual operating budgets over \$400,000 must have audited financial statements; organizations with annual operating budgets between \$35,000 and \$399,999 must have reviewed financial statements.
- 100% of Board of Directors have made a personal cash donation or made financially measurable in-kind contributions during the last completed fiscal year.
- Filed grant reports for previous competitive Community Foundation grants.

How Applications are Evaluated

The Community Impact Fund supports 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations and collaborative efforts among 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations and other groups in the Foundation's seven-county service area. The Foundation considers both general operating support and program support.

After first considering how strongly an application fits the Foundation's community impact areas, it then evaluates every grant request according to the following criteria:

- Soundness of fiscal, strategic, governance, and program delivery practices.
- Past success, demonstrated impact, or strong potential for impact.
- Use of relevant evaluation to assess progress toward meeting goals.
- Openness to collaboration and being a part of a broader approach to improving the lives of Hill Country residents.
- Uniqueness of programs or services.

What is Not Funded with Community Impact Fund Grants

The Community Foundation's Community Impact Fund cannot support applications not within its four community impact areas: **arts and culture**, **basic human needs**, **environment**, and **youth development**. Additionally, the Foundation's Community Impact Fund grants do not fund the following:

- Capital campaigns
- Building endowments or reserve funds
- Membership drives
- Special events or sponsorships
- Retroactive funding, as in, activities that are completed prior to when funding becomes available
- Debt retirement
- Grants to individuals
- Grants for re-granting purposes
- Multi-year funding requests
- Conferences, travel, or professional development
- Medical, scientific, or academic research
- Political campaigns or religious activities
- Scholarships

Two Types of Support

Organizations should decide whether to apply for general operating support or for program support; either type of request is eligible for the Community Impact Fund.

- *General operating support* is unrestricted funding. Organizations may use the funds for administrative purposes, to meet monthly obligations, to support programming, pay salaries, or to meet other organizational needs.
- *Program support* is funding for a specific program of an organization. The Foundation considers program support for new or existing projects and programs. Funds can be used for any element of the program's budget.

For general operating support requests, organizations must submit a current strategic plan that covers two or more years of operating. Requests can be no more than 10% of the organization's last completed fiscal year's expenses.

For program support requests, organizations must submit a program or project budget. Requests can be no more than 80% of the program or project budget.

Community Impact Areas

The Community Impact Fund invests in four areas: **arts and culture**, **basic human needs**, **environment**, and **youth development**.

Arts and Culture

In 2018, the Community Impact Fund will support arts and culture by funding organizations that present, produce, or provide arts programming for the public; art forms supported can be dance, design, folk arts, literature, media arts, music, opera, performance arts, theatre, and visual arts. Additionally, organizations that promote and/or preserve the region's history and culture will be considered.

Grantees will be evaluated on one or more of the following measures:

- *Audience participation in programming.* The Community Foundation does not evaluate the artistic merits of arts programming, audiences do. Thus, grantees will report on the number of audience members for supported projects.
- *Annual operating revenues for organizations.* Arts and cultural organizations have limited liquidity and capital – a position which limits nimbleness and sustainability. For grants used to capitalize organizations, a cash flow analysis will be a part of the grant report.
- *Community satisfaction with arts and cultural opportunities.* The Community Foundation strives to support a region that values arts, cultural, and heritage programming. Grantees will be required to submit documented efforts of reaching diverse audiences with regard to age, race, geography, and/or subject matter.

Basic Human Needs

In 2018, the Community Impact Fund will support basic human needs by funding organizations and programs that address hunger, poverty, family violence, the needs of seniors, and lack of access to basic medical care.

Grantees will be evaluated on one or more of the following measures:

- *Number of unduplicated residents served.* The Community Foundation keeps track of how many Hill Country residents are affected by its grantmaking; thus, a record of unduplicated residents served is important for that effort as well as to understand the output of supported organizations.
- *Description of collaborative work with other organizations.* Grantees will be required to document how collaboration with other entities affects operations and programming.
- *Annual operating revenues for organizations.* Basic needs organizations have limited liquidity and capital – a position which limits sustainability, a feature needed for organizations meeting the most essential human requirements. For grants used to capitalize organizations, a cash flow analysis will be a part of the grant report.

Environment

In 2018, the Community Impact Fund will support the environment by funding organizations and programs that address environmental stewardship and/or education. Nature education, energy and water conservation, land stewardship, wildlife protection, and maintaining dark skies are all priorities that will be considered.

Grantees will be evaluated on one or more of the following measures:

- *Number of unduplicated residents served.* The Community Foundation keeps track of how many Hill Country residents are affected by its grantmaking; thus, a record of unduplicated residents served is important for that effort as well as to understand the output of supported organizations.
- *Number of acres affected by the grant.* Grantees will be required to document where and how many acres its funding affected.
- *Economic and environmental impact.* Where appropriate, supported organizations will document the economic impact and the environmental impact of the grant.

Youth Development

In 2018, the Community Impact Fund will support the next generation by funding organizations and programs that work with children and youth, from birth through age 21.

Grantees will be evaluated on one or more of the following measures:

- *Number of unduplicated children and youth served.* The Community Foundation keeps track of how many Hill Country residents are affected by its grantmaking; thus, a record of unduplicated children and youth served is important for that effort as well as to understand the output of supported organizations.
- *The quality of the safe and/or supportive environment.* Grantees will be required to document where and how they create, provide, and/or maintain a safe and/or supportive environment for children and youth.
- *The levels of interaction and engagement for young people.* Where appropriate, supported organizations will document ways children and youth are encouraged to interact, engage, and build life or work skills.

Grant Cycle and Deadline

Applications are available on the Community Foundation's website as of Tuesday, April 3; completed applications and supporting documents are due on **12:00 pm on Friday, June 1, 2018**. Grant application deadlines are absolute – applications received after the deadline will not be considered.