

Frequently Asked Questions

About the Community Impact Fund



Who does the Community Foundation make grants to?

The Community Foundation makes grants to nonprofit organizations located in or providing services to residents in the Foundation's service area: Bandera, Edwards, Gillespie, Kendall, Kerr, Real, or Uvalde counties. If a nonprofit is located outside of the service area, it may apply if it provides services within the service area. Any awarded grant to such an organization will require that funds must only be spent on activities within the service area.

Our organization's 501(c)(3) status is pending with the IRS; can we still apply?

Eligible applicants must not only have received a 501(c)(3) determination from the IRS, but applicants must also have 12 months of operating history beyond the date of the IRS determination letter. For example, to be eligible for the June 1 deadline, applicants must have received a 501(c)(3) determination from the IRS in May of last year, at the latest.

Do we need an audit?

The Community Foundation requires all organizations to submit the most recent financial statements along with the grant application. If the applicant organization had an operating budget of \$400,000 or more for the previous fiscal year, then audited financial statements are required. If the applicant organization had an operating budget of \$399,999 or less for the previous fiscal year, then reviewed financial statements are required. Applicant organizations that had an operating budget of \$399,999 or less for the previous fiscal year are welcome to submit audit financials, if that is already the organization's practice.

Our church has a social program; can we apply?

Yes. As long as a religious congregation can demonstrate the program (a) fits within one of the community impact areas and (b) does not require religious belief or participation as a condition for receiving services or participating in the programmatic offering.

How do I determine whether to apply for general operating support or program support?

Applicants must first determine their greatest organizational need. General operating support is the most flexible funding option with fewer restrictions. Applicants seeking general operating support must submit the organization's current strategic plan along with the application. For applicants that do not have a current strategic plan, applying for program support is the alternative option. Program support applicants only require a program or project budget.

What is a reasonable grant request amount?

Grant requests should not exceed \$25,000.

Can I apply to send our staff to a conference?

No, the Community Impact Fund does not consider grant requests for professional development, including trainings, conferences, travel expenses, etc. However, the Foundation offers Nonprofit Scholarships for this need. Please read more about how individuals can apply here.

I am having trouble determining which community impact areas my organization fits within?

The four community impact areas are intentionally broad, and they are defined below:

- **Arts and Culture:** Organizations must 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. Organizations or projects that promote and/or preserve the region's history and culture also fit into this category.
- **Basic Human Needs:** Organizations must address hunger, poverty, housing, homelessness, family violence, addiction, mental illness, the needs of seniors, the needs of veterans, the needs of those with disabilities or those with chronic illness, and lack of access to basic medical care.
- **Environment:** Organizations and programs must 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.
- **Youth Development:** Organizations and programs that work with children and youth, from birth through age 21, are eligible. All types of youth development – from after school programming, STEM activities, youth sports, or educational programming – are all eligible.

Please contact us if you are unsure your organization fits within one of these four areas.

My organization does not fit into any of the four community impact areas; can I still apply?

Unfortunately, the Community Impact Fund grant process only supports organizations and programs in the four community impact areas. Please look at other funding opportunities that the Foundation offers to see if those meet your needs.

When is the next grant cycle for the Community Impact Fund?

There is only one Community Impact Fund grant deadline per year; it is always on June 1.

My organization received a Community Impact Fund grant in 2017, but we have not submitted our grant report; can we still apply?

Yes, for 2018. Beginning in 2019, the Community Foundation will require filed grant reports as a prerequisite for applying.

My organization's application was declined in 2017; can we apply again this year?

Absolutely! We welcome your application.

Can I talk to someone about my application?

Yes! Please contact Ingrid Cunyus, Grants and Scholarships Manager, with any questions: 830-896-8811 or ingrid@communityfoundation.net.