



**COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION**  
of the  
**TEXAS HILL COUNTRY**

## 2021 COMMUNITY IMPACT FUND 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, Blanco, Edwards, Gillespie, Kendall, Kerr, Kimble, Mason, 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. The Foundation invests in four focus categories through the Community Impact Fund: **Arts and Culture, Basic 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 the 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 if you have any questions about what meets the Community Impact Fund's criteria.

### CONTACT THE FOUNDATION

If you still have questions about the Community Impact Fund grant guidelines after reviewing them, please call 830-896-8811 and ask to speak with Ingrid Cunyus, the Grants & Scholarships Manager.

## COMMUNITY IMPACT FUND GRANTS IN 2021

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 Needs, Environment, and Youth Development**. The Foundation considers funding for both general operating support and program support.

### ELIGIBILITY

- Located in or providing services to residents in Bandera, Blanco, Edwards, Gillespie, Kendall, Kerr, Kimble, Mason, 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.
- 100% of Board of Directors have made a personal cash donation or made financially measurable in-kind contributions during the last completed fiscal year.
- Grant evaluation reports for previously awarded competitive Community Foundation grants must be filed prior to submittal of a new application.
- Required financial statements, determined by annual operating budget:
  - Under \$250,000 - most recently completed fiscal year financial statements
  - \$250,000-\$749,999 – recent reviewed financial statements issued by a CPA
  - \$750,000 and above – recent audited financial statements issued by a CPAThe Community Foundation defines recent compiled, reviewed, and audited financial statements as being within the last 24 months.

### 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 ten-county service area. The Foundation considers both general operating support and program support requests.

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 outside of its four community impact areas: **Arts and Culture, Basic 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
- Tuition assistance

## 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. Requests should not exceed more than \$15,000.

- **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. For general operating support requests, organizations **must** submit a current strategic plan that covers two or more years of operations.
- **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 program support requests, organizations must submit a program or project budget.

## COMMUNITY IMPACT AREAS

The Community Impact Fund invests in four areas: **Arts and Culture**, **Basic Needs**, **Environment**, and **Youth Development**.

### Arts and Culture

In 2021, 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 Hill Country'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 that limits nimbleness and sustainability. For grants used to capitalize organizations, a cash flow analysis may be required as 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 Needs

In 2021, the Community Impact Fund will support basic needs by funding organizations and programs that address hunger, poverty, literacy, neglect, family violence, lack of access to basic medical care, homelessness, the needs of seniors and veterans, the needs of those with disabilities or chronic illness, and animal welfare.

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 that limits sustainability, a feature needed for organizations meeting the most essential human requirements. For grants used to capitalize organizations, a cash flow analysis may be required as a part of the grant report.

### Environment

In 2021, 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 or geographical areas affected by the grant.* Grantees will be required to document the geographical areas 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 2021, 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

Online applications are available on the Community Foundation's website on Tuesday, **April 6, 2021**. Completed applications and supporting documents are due at **12:00 noon, on Tuesday, June 8, 2021**. Grant application deadlines are absolute – applications received after the deadline will not be considered.