



Guidelines for Traditional Grantmaking Cycles Revised January 2024

Grants may be made to qualified charitable organizations operating in the public interest and providing benefit to the citizens of Wayne County, Indiana. Other groups or government entities may also qualify, provided they are operating very broadly in the public interest and/or are aligned with a qualified charity.

The Wayne County Foundation is committed to the principles of good grantmaking and due diligence that includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Grants are only made for charitable purposes.
- First-time applicants are required to meet with the Nonprofit Relationship Manager, Kelley Cruse-Nicholson, prior to applying. Her email address is kelley@waynecountyfoundation.org.
- The Foundation performs due diligence for every applying organization. If an organization is found to have a revoked 501(c)(3) status with the IRS at any time during the application process, the application will not be reviewed. The organization will be permitted to apply again if the IRS letter of reinstatement is provided to the Foundation. Only the official letter from the IRS can be accepted.
- In speaking of due diligence, after electronic reviews, any proposal that scores a cumulative 70% or below will be automatically declined due to a poor-quality proposal.
- If the organization has an open grant, they will not be permitted to apply until the current project is completed and the final grant report submitted and accepted.
- No benefits shall accrue from any grant to any staff member, or staff member's family. Further, no benefit from any grant shall accrue to any advisor, volunteer or donor who is involved in the grant review or recommendation of a grant.
- Funding for organization operations is permitted if the proposal also requests funding for a program/project. Alternatively, if the proposal only asks for monies for operations, the organization must prove that the program/project has been funded in full.
- Requests must be a minimum of \$5,000 to respect applicants time required for proposal.
- Grants are used by each grantee for the appropriate purposes as approved by the Foundation.

TYPES OF PROJECTS FUNDED

The Foundation funds organizations, programs, projects, and initiatives that seek to improve the quality of life in Wayne County, Indiana, and enhance the spirit of the Wayne County community.

We are especially interested in proposals that:

- Address a community problem or special project of some significance in a way not already being attempted or already being funded by some other means.
- Present an innovative and practical approach to a community problem or project.
- Promote collaborative relationships between organizations to most effectively leverage resources and reduce duplication of services.
- Have a broad reach, as represented by the number of people involved or affected, and/or demonstrates a significant importance or depth of impact to those who are involved or affected.
- Set forth a work plan which shows an ability to achieve the project's goal.
- Demonstrate sustainability for projects or programs that are to be ongoing.
- Give evidence of the qualifications and stability of the organization applying

In general, the Foundation will not fund requests for the following purposes in its traditional grantmaking cycle:

- Annual Fund and Endowment Campaigns
- Debt reduction
- Post-event or after-the-fact applications
- Religious purposes or capital improvements to church-owned facilities
- Political activity
- Grants to individuals
- Services such as fire, police, schools, parks, etc. that are the responsibility of government and tax supported. (We may, however, occasionally support special projects of these agencies)
- Typically, requests from youth sports leagues, school bands, or boosters will not be considered.
- Standard instructional or regular operating costs of non-public schools
- Organizations located outside of Wayne County not providing direct services in the county.

In general, an organization may only receive one grant award per year.