



Guidelines for Traditional Grantmaking Cycles Revised February 2025

Grants may be made to qualified charitable organizations operating in the public interest and providing benefits 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 contact the Foundation before applying. The office can be reached at 765-962-1638 or by email at Brian@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.
- 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 is 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.
- Requests must be a minimum of \$25,000 for a program/project grant to respect the applicant's time required for the proposal.

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 other means.
- Present an innovative and practical approach to a community problem or project.
- Promote collaborative relationships between organizations to leverage resources and reduce duplication of services most effectively.
- 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 that do not provide direct services in the county.