



Community Grants Program

The Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation was established in 1986 for the betterment of all community residents. To us, northern Chautauqua is more than a geographic region – it's the place we call home. Because of that, we have worked hard to build a strong understanding of how it can be improved. Over the years, the NCCF has helped to create and fund many projects that enhance the lives of those who live here. Our interest areas span from arts and culture to the environment, to health and human services, to neighborhood revitalization, and beyond.

We seek to make strategic investments in the community and look to partner with nonprofit organizations to help create enduring solutions to often complex problems and to capitalize on promising opportunities. Effecting change requires both passion and measured thought, and we work hard to find proposals that encompass both.

We are keenly interested in what inspires you and look forward to hearing your ideas for transforming our vision of a healthy and prosperous community into reality.

Proposals for funding from our Community Grants Program are reviewed biannually, in the spring and the fall. The first step of the process for applying is to submit a Letter of Interest.

Letters of Interest must include:

- A brief project description including how this project furthers your agency's mission.
- What the anticipated and measurable impacts of the project are including the number of people who might benefit, the specific benefits to the community at large, or both.
- The total project cost and the specific amount requested.
- The signature of the Executive Director or President and the name and contact information for the primary person responsible for the proposal.

We request that letters be two pages or less in length and submitted electronically to eardillo@nccfoundation.org.

Letters of Interest must be received by 4:00 p.m. on March 1st (for the spring round) or September 1st (for the fall round) to be considered.

After the Grants Committee reviews all Letters of Interest, we will invite a select number of applicants to submit a full proposal. *(Although a particular project may fall within the established priorities and guidelines that is in no way a guarantee that the applicant will be invited to submit a full proposal.)*

(Please refer to NCCF website for complete grantmaking program timetable and guidelines for submitting full proposals.)

Priorities

In determining the merits and priority of an application, we will give particular consideration to:

- The degree of how the proposed project will potentially benefit the community.
- The capability of the organization and its personnel to achieve the desired results.
- Special consideration will be given to projects that include meaningful collaborations.
- Special consideration will be given to projects that can leverage additional funds, community resources, or both.

Guidelines

Grant proposals must efficiently and effectively address identified community needs or encourage new opportunities.

- Grant proposals must benefit the northern Chautauqua community.
- Applicant (or applicant's fiscal sponsor) must be a 501(c)3 organization or an appropriate not-for-profit. Individuals are not eligible to apply.
- While previous grants have ranged from \$500-\$15,000, historically our competitive grants have averaged \$1,500 to \$3,000.
- On a limited basis, we will consider grant support for two (2) years. In such instances, second-year funding will be contingent upon successful program outcomes from the previous year.
- At any given time, an organization can have only **one** grant open and can receive only one competitive grant per year. ***The failure of an applicant to properly close out a grant in a timely manner will be a factor when considering future grant requests.***

Areas generally not funded include:

- overhead and administrative expenses
- annual fundraising campaigns
- salaries or stipends not directly related to the specific proposal

We will only consider grants to religious organizations if the project is open to and benefits the community at large, and does not proselytize.

The Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation does not knowingly award funding or otherwise support organizations that discriminate in their hiring, in their provision of services or their selection of volunteers or vendors. No person shall, on the basis of race, color, religion or creed, gender, gender expression, age, physical or mental disability, national origin, political affiliation, veteran status, pregnancy, military obligations, marital status, or sexual orientation be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity financially supported by the Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation.

Eileen M. Ardillo, our Program Coordinator, welcomes your questions. You may reach her at 716-366-4892 or eardillo@nccfoundation.org.

**Thank you for your interest in collaborating with the NCCF
and for sharing our vision of a healthy and prosperous community.**