

INTRODUCTION

The Parke County Community Foundation's (the Foundation's) mission of 'Building a Tomorrow. . . Better Than Today' guides all of its work.

Applications for grants from the Community Grants Fund will be accepted from any new or existing charitable organization, community agency with a charitable purpose in or serving Parke County as they seek funds to establish or expand programs to address a community need or with projects to "Build Community Capacity," as noted in the Foundation's philosophy.

The Foundation accepts grant applications year-round on forms provided or will also consider a letter of query for grant requests of \$1,000 and under. Funding notification can be expected within 90 days of submission of an application.

Why the Foundation is here

The Foundation was created in order to build a permanent resource of endowed funds, the earnings from which could be used to help meet the continually changing charitable needs of the Parke County community.

The Foundation exists for three basic purposes: (1) to assist donors who wish to meet charitable needs through creating endowments; (2) to serve as a fiduciary, holding and prudently managing donated funds and (3) to make appropriate and accountable distributions of earnings on funds (grants) to qualified charitable recipients.

Targeted Fields of Interest for Grants

Community Grant funds target fields of interests which have been suggested as community-enhancing and these include *agricultural interests, family support, fine arts/cultural, handicapped persons, historic preservations, individual township interests, religion, scholarship/education and youth/recreation.*

Application Process

A grant application form is available by contacting the Foundation. For requests of \$1,000 and under a letter of query can be substituted. Information included in a query letter should describe the charitable project and share the organization's perception of need. Describe who and how many are likely to benefit and the factors that you will use to evaluate its success.

Describing the total cost of the project in relation to the amount being requested can be helpful, as might a summary of funds that have already been raised whether in-kind or cash. Fundraising details help identify the level of the organization's commitment to the project and tend to increase the strength of requests.

Due Diligence

In order to fulfill reporting requirements and expectations of donors, the Foundation will seek project and financial performance information. Interim progress reports may be requested on larger projects and timely responses are important.

ELIGIBILITY TO APPLY

The Foundation funds grants to qualified charitable purposes, many of which will be deemed by the IRS to have 501(c)(3) status.

-The IRS defines a public charity [501(c)(3)] as "Corporations, and any community chest, fund, or foundation, organized and operated exclusively for religious, charitable scientific, testing for public safety, literary, or educational purposes, or to foster national or international amateur sports competition (but only if no part of its activities involve the provision of athletic facilities or equipment), or for the prevention of cruelty to children or animals, no part of the net earning of which inures to the benefit of any private shareholder or individuals, no substantial part of the activities of which is carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting, to influence legislation, (except as otherwise provided in subsection (h)), and which does not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements), any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office."

IF the IRS does not recognize your organization as a 501(c)(3), your project should be an effort designed to assist the needy and promote human well being in Parke County.

-Please be sure to call or stop by the Foundation for questions related to the granting process.