

FAQs for Creating Community Initiative grants

What is the Creating Community Grantmaking Initiative?

Our community has generously worked to address many basic needs during the last year and a half. The Community Foundation, along with federal, state, and other local funders has provided, and will continue to support critical funding to support human and social service needs resulting from the pandemic. For the fall 2021 grantmaking cycle, the Foundation seeks to complement this funding through a **focus on restoring and enhancing the overall livability of our community**. These grants are intended to foster our community's vibrancy, quality of place, and livability through supporting and enhancing the amenities that make Monroe County an attractive place to call home. Examples of eligible proposal areas include but are not limited to: the arts, public recreation, community spaces, beautification, animal welfare, environmental preservation and enhancement, and opportunities to create a more welcoming, inclusive community.

My organization's services do not fall within the scope of the areas identified above. Will the Community Foundation consider proposals outside of these areas mentioned?

You are not encouraged to invest your time and resources towards applying for this cycle if your organization's efforts do not fall within the scope of the areas requested. It is expected that the Community Foundation will offer another competitive grant cycle in early 2022 to address other community needs and compelling opportunities.

What type of charitable organization is eligible for a Creating Community Grant?

Applications may be submitted by local 501(c)(3) nonprofits and other organizations that are exempt from filing for a 501(c)(3) status. This includes units of government, school corporations, and religious organizations. Grants may be awarded to religious organizations for programs that are non-proselytizing and do not promote religious doctrine or instruction. In limited situations, CFMBC may be able to grant to other types of organizations that are serving a charitable purpose but do not have a 501(c)(3) status. To confirm eligibility, please contact Marcus Whited at marcus@cfbmc.org or (812) 333-9016

What if multiple organizations are collaborating on a proposal – who applies?

One organization must serve as the lead organization and the applicant organization. All collaborating organizations must confirm their willingness and intent to participate in the program. Generally, this is most effectively accomplished by entering into a Memorandum of Understanding, which is included as an upload in the application.

Is there a limit on the number of applications that can be submitted or funded by one organization?

No. An organization may submit multiple applications and/or be a co-applicant with other organizations.

How does an eligible organization apply for funds?

The application is available online at <https://cfbmcgrants.communityforce.com/Login.aspx> .

How much funding is available? What are the funding limits?

CFBMC expects to fund between 6-15 grants ranging between **\$10,000 to \$25,000 each**.

What is the source of funding for Creating Community Grants?

Grants are distributed from a variety of funds established at the Community Foundation by donors including unrestricted endowments, select field of interest funds, and from collaborative funding provided by our partners, including the **Smithville Charitable Foundation**.

What types of expenses are eligible grant expenses? Are capital and/or operating expenses eligible?

Direct costs for implementing the project or program are eligible grant expenses. In addition, no more than 30% of the requested grant funding may be used for indirect costs that contribute to the organization's ability to implement the grant project, or for building and/or sustaining operational capacity for the duration of the grant period. Examples of indirect operating expenses that may be eligible include fund development, internal operations such as IT upgrades, financial management tools, administrative costs, essential staffing, and core program costs.

What information will be required for the application?

When completing an application, please be prepared to submit the following information and documentation:

- Listing of Board of Directors
- Organization's most recent IRS Form 990 or 990-N
- Organization's current annual operating budget
- Project/Program narrative
- Project/Program budget
- Project/Program logic chart, including metrics for measuring impact (template provided)

When will I find out if our proposal is accepted and when would funding be available?

Organizations selected for funding will be notified by early December 2021. Funding will be available after a grant agreement is executed, perhaps as early as mid-December.

How are grant agreements and distributions handled?

Before grant funding is available, the grantee and the Community Foundation will execute a grant agreement. The grant agreement will outline the payout schedule for the grant, which may include multiple distributions. Generally, grants are distributed on a reimbursement basis. Invoices submitted to the Community Foundation are generally paid within three weeks.

What type of reporting is required?

The Community Foundation will work collaboratively with each grantee to establish the expectations and the schedule for grant documentation, feedback and evaluation. Depending upon the project or program, one or more intermediate reports may be required in addition to the final report. While the grant agreement will define the required components of grant reports, the following items are generally expected to be addressed:

- Objectives met or unmet
- Strengths and weaknesses of program/project
- Population served
- Community benefits from the grant program/project, including specific metrics and data
- Financial results
- Sustainability of the project/program

Remind me again, what is the timeline?

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| September 8, 2021 | Announcement of grant cycle; application opens |
| October 25, 2021 | Application deadline |
| December 3, 2021 | Announcement of awards |
| Mid-December 2021 | Grant funding available (pending grant agreement) |

Who should I contact with questions?

Community Foundation Program Director, Marcus Whited at 812-333-9016 or marcus@cfbmc.org

Equal Opportunity in Grantmaking

No person in the United States shall, on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity (as defined in paragraph 249(c)(4) of title 18, United States Code), sexual orientation, marital or parental status, political affiliation, military service, physical or mental ability, or any other improper criterion be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity funded in whole or in part with funds made available by the community foundation, and any other program or activity funded in whole or in part with funds appropriated for grants, cooperative agreements, and other assistance administered by the community foundation.