COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
BLOOMINGTON • MONROE COUNTY

FAQs for Fall 2022 Community Impact Funding Initiative grants

What is the Community Impact Funding Initiative?
The CIFI is a strategic grantmaking initiative of the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County designed to fuel innovative ideas and lasting impact by granting funds to nonprofits to meet our community's most pressing needs and seize its most compelling opportunities.

Is my organization eligible for a Community Impact Grant?
Impact grants will be made to local 501(c)(3) nonprofits and organizations that are exempt from filing for a 501(c)(3) status. This includes units of government, school corporations, and religious organizations. Impact 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.

What if multiple organizations are collaborating on a proposal – who applies?
One organization must be the lead organization and will be the applying organization. All collaborating organizations must confirm their willingness and intent to participate in the program. This is most effectively accomplished by entering into a Memorandum of Understanding, which would be uploaded into the full application to the Community Foundation if an invitation is extended. The lead organization should submit the initial Letter of Intent.

Is there a limit on the number of Letters of Intent that can be submitted?
No. An organization may submit multiple Letters of Intent and/or be a co-applicant with multiple organizations.

How does an eligible organization apply for funds?
The CIFI uses a two-part grant proposal process. First, interested agencies are asked to submit by email a two-page (maximum) Letter of Intent to the Community Foundation by September 7, 2022. Following a review of Letters of Intent, selected organizations will be invited by September 23 to submit full grant applications online, which will be due October 31, 2022 at 10:00am.

What can I expect in terms of the number of awards and amount of funding available?
It is expected that approximately 8-14 awards will be made, ranging from $10,000 to $50,000 each.

What is the source of funding for Community Impact 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 should be included in my Letter of Intent?
Letters of Intent should be no more than two pages in length and should be prepared on the applying organization's official letterhead. The LOI should be submitted to marcus@cfbmc.org by March 21, 2022. The following should be included:

- The name and title of the contact person
- The mission statement of the organization
- The amount requested between $10,000 and $50,000 (an estimate is acceptable for the Letter of Intent)
- Project description, including how the project would benefit the community
- Basic information regarding how the amount requested was determined and what the funds would cover
- A description on the ability to achieve clearly defined and measurable outcomes
- Initial timeline of the project itself, as well as a timeline for measuring results
- Also attach a PDF version of the IRS Letter of Determination and the organization's official non-discrimination policy.

When is the Letter of Intent due?
A two page (maximum) Letter of Intent is due on or before September 7, 2022.

How should Letters of Intent be submitted?
Please email (in PDF format) the Letter of Intent, along with IRS Letter of Determination and non discrimination policy to CFBMC Program Director Marcus Whited at marcus@cfbmc.org.

What other types of requests will not be considered?
The Community Foundation does not accept requests for:

- Previously incurred debts
- Political campaigns
- Efforts to influence legislation of any governmental body other than through making available the results of nonpartisan analysis, study, and research

What are eligible grant expenses?
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 related to the project may include areas such as internal operations such as IT upgrades, financial management tools, administrative costs, essential staffing, and core program costs.

Where do I obtain a full application?
If your organization is invited by the Community Foundation to submit a full proposal, you will be provided instructions regarding how to access the online application. Full application is due October 31, 2022 by 10:00am.

How long will I have to complete the full application, if invited?
Full applications may be completed and submitted online between September 23 and October 31, 2022.

What additional information will be required for the full application?
When completing a full application, please be prepared to submit the following information and documentation:

- Organization's non-discrimination policy
- 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 (template provided)

When will I find out if our proposal is accepted and when would funding be available?
After submitting an LOI, organizations who are invited to submit a full application will be notified by September 23, 2022. Organizations selected for funding will be notified by December 5, 2022. Funding will be available after a grant agreement is executed, expected by early to 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 but may require four, on occasion.

How long will a grantee have to spend grant funds? Most grant funding periods are 12 to 18 months in length. In unusual, but necessary circumstances, it may be prudent for a grant funding period to extend for 1-2 years.

What type of reporting would be 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:

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

Who is on the grant selection committee?
The Grant Evaluation Committee is comprised of CFBMC staff, CFBMC board members, and community representatives. The Community Foundation is careful to monitor potential conflicts in selecting committee members. All evaluators are asked to complete both a conflict of interest and confidentiality statement.

Remind me again, what is the timeline?

August 5, 2022	Announcement of grant cycle
September 7, 2022	Due date for LOI, IRS Letter of Determination, non-discrimination policy
September 23, 2022	Selected applicants receive invitations for full online application
October 31, 2022	Full applications due
December 5, 2022	Announcement of awards
Mid-December 2022	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.