

2018 CFGV COMMUNITY GRANTMAKING GUIDELINES

Please read carefully as these guidelines have evolved. We urge you to plan ahead: read all materials well in advance and call the staff if you have questions. If your IRS letter is more than five years old, request a new one now as it may take weeks to get it. The required attachments list can be found online with these guidelines and related resources. Please plan to review the list well ahead of time.

First-time applicants are strongly encouraged to consult with a member of the Foundation staff so that your proposal may be as competitive as possible.

Overview:

The Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley (the Foundation) currently awards grants for programs that benefit Gunnison County citizens in the following eight areas: arts and culture; community development; environment; education; health and human services; athletics and recreation; domestic animal welfare and protection; and historical tradition and preservation. Funded activities must take place between July 1, 2018, and April 30, 2019.

The Foundation provides two types of support:

- Project support that does not exceed 50% of the cash cost of the project.
- General operating support, limited to 501(c)(3) organizations that have received project grants in the past. General operating support refers to funds that are simply a percent of the organization's operating budget.

Our Community Grants are modest in size – generally \$1,000 to \$7,000. They support activities with a **direct local** impact beyond their economic impact. Many Gunnison Valley organizations serve visitors and may have a national or international reach, but in its Community Grantmaking program, the Foundation supports programs that engage local populations or that can document the impact on Gunnison County and its residents. To this end, organizations that serve broadly may find it advantageous to apply for project support.

New this year:

- The range of grant awards has been slightly expanded.
- General Operating Support is now limited to autonomous 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations. Thus, entities using a fiscal agent and government entities may only apply for project support.
- Proposals for design of capital projects are no longer eligible.
- Proposals for scholarships or tuition/cost equalization must demonstrate compliance with federal law (see "We Do Not Fund" below).
- Special attachments are required for the following groups. Please look at the list of required attachments [ONLINE HERE](#) or when logged into your FluidReview account.
 - Religious organizations submitting a proposal unrelated to religious doctrine
 - Organizations seeking funds for scholarships or cost-equalization
 - Organizations seeking funds for marketing
 - Organizations seeking funds for school programs

Eligibility: Applicants must be a 501(c)(3) organization; or must apply through a 501(c)(3) organization (a fiscal agent); or be an agency or program of government that is primarily grant-funded.

Applicants must have completed a final report for any past grant received and are not eligible to apply for another grant until this has been done.

Applicants may only receive grants three years in a row, and then must “sit out” for a year before they are eligible to reapply. If you are unsure of your status, contact the Foundation staff.

There are special factors for **government entities**:

- They may only submit project grant proposals.
- If large and multifaceted – such as Gunnison County or Western State Colorado University – please limit the total number of applications to three.
- County or municipal government programs must be primarily grant-supported to be eligible for a Community Grant.

The Foundation does not generally support **religious organizations** where Foundation support might suggest the endorsement of religious doctrine. However, the Foundation may provide grants to these groups under certain circumstances:

- They may only submit project grant proposals.
- They must demonstrate that their proposed project is publicly accessible – irrespective of shared beliefs – and is not intended to encourage the adoption of a particular religious point of view.

Applicants that are using a **fiscal agent** may only apply for project support.

We do not fund:

- Religious activities or projects that serve, or appear to serve, the doctrine of a specific religious group or denomination
- Political lobbying, campaigns or legislative activities
- Projects already completed
- Debt retirement, deficit financing, reduction of an operating deficit, liquidating debt or replenishing resources used to pay for such purposes
- National, state or local fundraising activities; i.e. annual fund drives, courtesy advertising, benefit tickets, telephone solicitations.
- Scholarship or tuition assistance projects unless evidence is provided that they are need-based and broadly competitive (as described in the list of required attachments).
- Projects whereby Foundation funds would be redistributed to other organizations or individuals; the exception is the use of these funds for scholarships or tuition assistance where the organization receiving CFGV grant funds directly participates in the distribution of these funds and retains accountability for them.
- Individuals
- Endowment campaigns
- Capital building projects, including design components, and, under most circumstances, major equipment.
- Projects of organizations known to have discriminatory policies

Deadline:

Complete proposals must be submitted at cfgv.fluidreview.com by 11:59 p.m. on May 15, 2018. Proposals which are incomplete (including support materials) will not be accepted. There are no exceptions to this policy.

Help and Resources:

There are errors that applicants commonly make. They are easy to avoid if you:

- Literally answer all questions. If the question is about the issue, do not respond with your mission or what you do, for example.
- Provide numbers and specifics, avoiding words like “many” or “most.” It is far more powerful to use your limited word count on numbers rather than generalizations.
- Clearly show why the “issue” is an issue that matters, and outline in your evaluation response how you anticipate that the situation will improve.

Foundation staff has created a toolkit that may be useful, especially with the issue and evaluation process. Though particularly relevant to athletics, arts and humanities groups, it will be of value to all. <http://cfgv.org/evaluation-resources/>

The Review Committee will discuss your management practices based on the content of your Grant Application (and written grant feedback from past years, if applicable). An organized library of books and articles is available to you at the Foundation; “Principles and Practices of Nonprofit Management” is [ONLINE HERE](#) at the Colorado Nonprofit Association’s website; and the Foundation website has good resources at its [nonprofit tab](#).

As always, the Foundation staff is happy to answer questions.

- For application questions, contact Maryo Gard Ewell, maryo@cfgv.org, (970) 641-3570
- For IT questions, contact Margie Black, margie@cfgv.org, (970) 641-8837 or (970) 349-5966