

GRANTS POLICY

Amended by the Board February 11, 2007, January 27, 2009, January 6, 2010, March 16, 2011 and March 14, 2012, March 27, 2014, August 25, 2016

Philosophy

The Gunnison Valley is diverse economically, geographically, and demographically; it is connected by many common needs and interests. The Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley works with the community's many nonprofit organizations to facilitate a greater understanding of the interests of both and respond more effectively to local concerns and needs.

The Foundation funds nonprofits that work for the greater good of the region in the areas of arts and culture, community development, environment, education, human services, athletics, recreation, historical tradition and preservation and domestic animal welfare and protection. In distributing grant awards, the Foundation's mission is to exercise leadership on charitable issues while advancing the cause of philanthropy throughout the area and promoting effective delivery of services from nonprofit and community organizations.

Regarding Gunnison Watershed School District, CFGV will consider grant requests in the Community Grant Cycle that are outside of core school services, including but not limited to afterschool and summer programs and extracurricular programs, excluding sports programs. Through the Community Grant Cycle, the CFGV will not fund general operating, teacher salaries, primary or customary school services or programs/equipment/books aimed at the core curricula/operations of schools. The Foundation may consider enrichment programs that have a classroom component.

The CFGV regularly receives grant requests that exceed the availability of funds. The Grant Selection Committee gives full consideration to all requests meeting the strategic priorities and funding guidelines of the Foundation, and decisions not to fund particular proposals are more likely to result from limited resources than to reflect upon the merits of the applicant or the worthiness of the proposal.

Mission

The Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley strengthens and enriches the community through engaged philanthropy, thoughtful grantmaking, strategic education, and collaborative leadership.

Grant Selection Committee

The Grant Selection Committee consists of Board Members and non-board permanent and part-time area residents and is responsible for submitting recommendations to the Board of Directors. Through an impartial process, the committee determines the merits of the requests; any committee member serving on the board of, or employed in any way by, or related to an employee of, or who considers themselves a major contributor to a requesting program or organization will be excused from participation in discussions or recommendations concerning that particular request. The Board of Directors will review the recommendations of the Grant Selection Committee and make the final decision on said recommendations.

General Exclusions

In general, the Foundation does not grant funds to the following types of organizations or projects:

- Requests for more than 50% of the cash project cost

- Religious activities or projects that serve, or appear to serve, the doctrine of a specific religious group or denomination. If a proposal submitted by a church-based or similar organization is intended to serve a broad segment of the population as would a project of a comparable non-religious organization, the Foundation will consider the proposal on the same basis as proposals from other agencies.
- Political lobbying, political 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 (general solicitation letters will not be acknowledged)
- Umbrella funding organizations that would distribute requested funds at their own discretion
- Individuals, or pass through funding for other organizations (i.e. providing fellowships, scholarships or mini-grants to other organizations)
- Endowment campaigns
- Capital building projects

Application Deadlines and Policies

- Applicants for funding must be tax exempt under the provisions of section 501(c)(3) and 170(b)(1)(a)(vi) of the Internal Revenue Code; these groups are nonprofits and government agencies performing charitable work.
- The Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley announces its grant cycles each year. Notices are provided to the local newspapers and radio stations and are posted on the Foundation's website, www.cfgv.org. It is the responsibility of the organization to request and use the current documents. Applications are generally available 6-8 weeks prior to the grant deadline.
- Complete applications must be received before the posted deadline date.
- The Grants Committee of the Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley will review all grants, establishing eligibility, and report on all applications to the CFGV Board of Directors
- Grantmaking policy is approved by the Board of Directors; grant award decisions are recommended to the Board by the Grants Committee. Final decisions are made by the Board of Directors.
- Under normal circumstances, only one request from an organization will be reviewed in a twelve month period.
- The Foundation uses its own application which is available on the Foundation's website, www.cfgv.org.
- All grant recipients must report on the expenditure of grant funds and results of the project upon completion of the project and no later than the application deadline for the next grant cycle. The Foundation's report form is available on the Foundation's website, www.cfgv.org.
- The Foundation prefers not to be the only funding source for a project; at the Board's discretion, grants may be issued as challenge grants to agencies to encourage community participation in proposed programs.
- Any funds not spent for the specific purpose of the grant must be returned to the Foundation and cannot be diverted to other uses without the express approval of the Foundation's Board of Directors.
- Site visits may be made to nonprofit agencies requesting a grant or to a recipient agency by Foundation Staff or Board members.