



Community Impact Grants
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December 2011

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Eligibility, Guidelines and General Instructions

[How many proposals may one organization submit?](#)

An organization may submit one proposal for a Community Impact Grant per cycle, on behalf of their organization. (Note that there are two cycles: spring cycle with deadline in February and Fall cycle with deadline in August.) If the organization applies in February and does not receive a grant, the organization may submit a proposal addressing another program area in August.

An organization may partner with as many collaborative proposals as it has the capacity to do so.

For Opportunity Grants, there is a limited amount of funding. While there is no limit set on the number of these grants an organization may receive in a given year, prior funding will be a factor in deciding whether to award a second Opportunity Grant in the same calendar year. It is possible that an organization may receive an organizational development grant and receive a grant to support an urgent need or emerging venture later in the year, depending on the case for additional funding and CFMC's available funding. Organizations working in an area that closely addresses one or more of the Community Impact priorities will be favored.

[What is the maximum amount we may apply for?](#)

We expect grants to range from \$10,000 to \$50,000. Grants above \$50,000 are rare. Last year, the average size of our grants was \$19,000.

[Is a pre-application or letter of intent required?](#)

No.

[If approved, when will we be funded?](#)

Decisions for applications received by the February deadline will be decided in late June, and those received by the August deadline will be decided in early December. Grant checks will be mailed one to two weeks after a decision has been made.

[May an organization apply for a Community Impact Grant and a Women's Fund Grant?](#)

Yes, but not for the same program.

[May an organization apply for a Community Impact Grant and a Futer Grant for Essential Human Services?](#)

Yes, however only one grant will be awarded in 2012. Organizations that are awarded a three-year (2012-2014) Futer grant are NOT eligible to apply for a Community Impact grant in 2013 and 2014. They may, however, apply as part of a multiple agency collaborative during this period. Futer-funded organizations may apply for an Opportunity Grant during the three-year period.

[My organization provides basic human services and has the strongest fit under the Basic Needs priority. We prefer to apply for a Basic Needs Community Impact grant and not a three-year Futer grant. Will you consider this grant proposal?](#)

For the most part, the Community Foundation will focus its grants on preventive strategies. The Futer Grants for Essential Human Services is our primary grant program to support safety net and other basic human services. However, multi-organization collaborative proposals to coordinate or increase the effectiveness of the delivery of these essential human services will be considered through a Community Impact grant application. Also, your organization can apply for an Opportunity Fund grant.

[How do you define a collaborative project?](#)

All members in a collaborative project are involved in project planning and implementation. All members contribute to the activities, and mutually benefit from participating. Note that the Guidelines refer to networks and collaborations. We define networks as a broad group of stakeholders addressing a common goal or shared issue. Generally, we understand that collaborations address issues that have a clear problem and answer; the whole group participates in decision-making and planning and reaches its goal through planned action. Networks address complex issues that do not necessarily have clear answers. All members are interested in the shared concern; however all are not necessarily involved in decision-making or action, as roles vary. Networks work collaboratively to address complex issues through resource sharing, program delivery and/or broader systems change. This strategy emerged out of CFMC's work on the [Social Network Support Project](#). More information is available through our [Nonprofit Management Resources](#). Contact [Janet Shing](#) with your questions.

[Can a public agency or other nonprofit that is not classified by the IRS as a 501\(c\)3 public charity apply for a Community Impact Grant?](#)

Public agencies (e.g., a public school or city/county library) may apply. All other types of organizations are eligible to apply in a collaborative project with a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization or public agency as the lead applicant.

[We are a faith-based organization but our programs are non-denominational. Are we eligible to apply for a grant?](#)

The Community Foundation will consider grant proposals for programs that are secular or do not promote a specific religious doctrine. Programs, equipment or facilities that are used primarily for non-secular purposes are not eligible for a Community Impact Grant. The CFMC does not make competitive grants to organizations that discriminate in employment practices, volunteer opportunities, or delivery of programs and services on the basis of race, religion, gender, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, marital status, sexual orientation, or any other characteristics protected by law.

[How do you define fiscal sponsors?](#)

A fiscal sponsor is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization or public agency which receives and manages a grant on behalf of the non-incorporated group or non-501(c)3 organization. The fiscal sponsor is technically the grantee, on behalf of the non-incorporated group. The fiscal sponsor is accountable to the CFMC for the programmatic and financial outcomes of the grant. As such, reports and financial accounting on the grant are the responsibility of the fiscal sponsor. We ask that fiscal sponsors include a signed agreement with the sponsored group verifying the terms of this arrangement.

[Our proposal idea overlaps priority areas \(e.g. Building Blocks and Culture\). To which should we apply?](#)

Review the Common Impact Evaluation form and think about the indicators and results you expect to have. Choose the funding priority (and application deadline) which is most closely related. In general, we encourage arts education proposals to apply under Culture and environmental education proposals to apply under Environment.

[We expect to apply in August. Will the Community Foundation do anything to support our program in 2012?](#)

Unfortunately we were unable to avoid this timing situation. If applicable, you could apply for support through an [Opportunity Grant](#), the [Women's Fund](#) or [Stanton Fund](#).

[My organization received a General Endowment grant for the academic year 2011-12. We would like to apply for a Building Blocks grant in February. Do we need to have spent all of the funds from the previous grant? When is my evaluation Impact Report due?](#)

Funds from a previous grant need to be spent before the project dates in your new proposal. If the previous grant funds have not been spent at the time you submit your Community Impact Grant application, please submit an interim evaluation report.

[The Guidelines state that the Community Foundation is interested in supporting innovation and effective approaches. What do you mean by this?](#)

We are looking for effective approaches and fresh ideas based on local experience and/or best practices from the field. Innovative approaches may include an existing program or approach that has been updated to enhance services or address a new challenge. Organizations proposing to undertake a new approach should cite research and data as to why the proposed strategy is expected to be relevant and effective in the proposed geographic area of Monterey County.

[Will you support individual artists in community-building efforts and developing multicultural programming?](#)

Community Impact Grants cannot be used to fund individuals.

[It appears from your guidelines that the Community Foundation prefers to make grants for program expenses over general operating support; is this true?](#)

Yes, the Community Foundation prefers to receive requests for program expenses with clearly defined and measurable indicators. However, the Community Foundation will consider general operating grants on a limited basis. See the written guidelines for specific eligibility criteria for operating support grants.

[If prevention and upstream projects are preferred, how will outcomes be measured?](#)

Organizations are encouraged to choose indicators that will show that the program is effective. Depending on the work, this may include demonstrated knowledge, changed behavior or measurable changes in community resources or policies. Workshops to assist groups in completing the required Common Impact Evaluation Form will be offered in Winter and Summer 2012. Please attend one if possible.

[Must I submit my application on the date of the deadline?](#)

Earlier submissions help our scheduling, as long as you are not sending the application so early that your financials will be out of date by the time the application is reviewed. Applications received after 5:00 PM on the deadline, or those that are incomplete, cannot be reviewed.

[Will you confirm that you have received my application?](#)

Yes, we confirm receipt within five business days (depending on the volume received). We allow that much time because we also notify you in our response of any eligibility issues, missing or unclear documents or overdue evaluations. If you have applied before the deadline, you will have until the deadline to resolve any issues.

[How important is Board giving? We are a public agency / school board / etc. and do not expect monetary contributions from our board.](#)

We expect to see a significant level of commitment from an organization's board. We understand that many boards donate in-kind contributions including labor, and know that not all board members have the same financial resources. We view the percent which contributes as a sign of leadership and commitment.

Forms

[Where are the forms and instructions I will need?](#)

Please use the Common Grant Application and Common Impact Evaluation forms. Both forms are available in one document and can be downloaded from our [website](#).

[Where are the Evaluation Report forms?](#)

Grant applications should include an Impact Evaluation Plan. The Impact Evaluation Plan is part of the Common Grant Application and can be downloaded from our website, <http://www.cfmco.org/index.cfm/id/382/Community-Impact-Grants/>. Applications will include an Impact Evaluation Plan and table with *expected* activities, indicators, etc. The final evaluation report will be the same table, completed with *actual* activities and outcome results.

For a *previous* year's General Endowment grant, evaluation is made using the Impact Report, still available on our website, <http://www.cfmco.org/index.cfm/id/187/General-Endowment-Grants/>.

General Questions

[What are you looking for in a strong proposal?](#)

Funding through Community Impact Grants is competitive. Last year, CFMC funded about 62% of the requests made through the General Endowment. 2012 is expected to be even more competitive. Proposals will be reviewed along with other proposals in a given Priority or Interest Area. For example, all youth-related proposals will be reviewed at the same time by the same committee; all arts and culture proposals will be reviewed at the same time by the same committee, etc.

CFMC's review of grant applications will observe the same due diligence as it has in the past. For example, a strong proposal would address the priorities and interest areas in CFMC's Grantmaking Framework. We're looking for proposals that have a realistic budget and that demonstrate the organization's strategy, experience and knowledge of community needs. We are looking to fund organizations with effective leadership and community support, including diversified and sustainable income sources. In addition, we are looking for projects that will best leverage CFMC support. Strong proposals will be preventive in nature and may include innovative strategies. By innovative or inventive, we mean addressing chronic or challenging issues with a fresh approach or non-traditional resources (e.g., inter-generational, faith-based, business community, etc.).

We suggest that you review carefully the Community Impact Grant Guidelines and Framework. Many organizations will apply with important projects for funding. However, we are only able to fund those projects that most closely align with our criteria and fit the available funding resources. Unfortunately, many worthwhile projects will not receive funding due to limited resources. If you have questions about eligibility, please contact [Janet Shing](#), 831.375.9712.

[Can you help us prepare our application?](#)

We will be happy to answer any questions you have about the application process, and we offer workshops on proposal writing. Unfortunately, we are not able to assist in preparing proposals, nor can we review or advise on drafts.

[May we meet with Community Foundation staff to discuss our proposal?](#)

We are available to meet briefly, time permitting, or by phone with prospective applicants. We may schedule a call or a site visit during the review of your proposal.

[How are grant decisions made?](#)

Proposals will be reviewed by funding priority and all grant proposals will be read by Committee members (e.g., All Building Blocks proposals will be reviewed together and by the same Committee; all Community Engagement proposals will be reviewed together and by the same Committee; etc.) Funding recommendations will be made by the Community Foundation's Grants Committees. The

Community Foundation's board of directors will review the Committees' recommendations and make the final decision. The Grants Committees will be comprised of CFMC board members and community volunteers who represent all of the county's geographic regions and who have a broad understanding of community issues. The same committees will serve in both the Spring and Fall cycles; for example, the Committee that reviews Building Blocks proposals in the Spring will review Culture proposals in the Fall.

[Do you still make Technical Assistance grants?](#)

Yes, through the Opportunity Grants. A match is no longer required. Please see our web site for this program.

[What if my organization doesn't fit with these priorities?](#)

Community Foundation has made an effort to be open to all possible areas that would "strengthen communities." Please review the Opportunity Grant Guidelines and consider applying for an Emerging Venture grant, or contact [Julie Drezner](#), 831.375.9712, to discuss your project.

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