

LICKING COUNTY FOUNDATION

GUIDELINES DISCRETIONARY GRANT PROGRAMS Approved on January 6, 2022

OVERVIEW

Awarded through unrestricted and field of interest funds, these grants carry out the wishes of donors and help nonprofits meet the needs of our community. Annually, the Foundation sets priority and focus areas in alignment with its strategic plan, and invites grant partners from tax-exempt, nonprofit organizations serving Licking County as part of a strategic grant making process to respond to new and existing programs, emerging needs, and innovative services that might not be started or continue were it not for LCF's support.

POLICY STATEMENT FOR GRANTMAKING

The mission of the Licking County Foundation is to enhance the quality of life for all citizens in our area, now and for generations to come, by building community endowment; addressing needs through grant making; and serving as a leader, catalyst, and a resource for charitable giving. Licking County Foundation grants are made for public charitable purposes that enrich the quality of life of citizens of the Licking County, Ohio area. Generally, consideration will be focused on projects or programs that:

- Help launch new projects which represent a unique and unduplicated opportunity for the community
- Support established organizations for special purposes
- Support organizations which deliver effective existing programs to assist or empower underserved or disadvantaged populations
- Offer new approaches to solving problems, and stimulate others to participate in problem-solving
- Create opportunities for organizations to collaborate without duplicating services, and leverage additional resources
- Make a clear difference in the quality of life for a substantial number of people
- Propose innovative, creative, and practical solutions to both current and emerging community needs
- Strengthen an agency's effectiveness or stability
- Generate matching funds

INTEREST AREAS & COMMUNITY NEED

LCF is particularly interested in addressing the following areas of need in the community and will invite grant partnership as follows:

- Priority Areas for multi-year grant partnership consideration; LCF is particularly interested in investing multi-year support around:
 - **Arts & Culture:** Sustaining and strategically aligning local arts and culture; programs and activities that reach out to underserved populations, and strengthen and support local arts organizations

- **Capital Projects:** efforts evaluated by LCF to have a significant impact for Licking County
- **Community Development:** Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Social Justice; programs and activities that enhance and improve the equitable treatment of all citizens; and create a more diverse, inclusive, and tolerant community
- **Education:** Affordable, high-quality early education and childcare; programs and opportunities to benefit and support children
- **Health:** Access to care; in-county mental health services for children and young adults; addressing mental, physical, or developmental disabilities
- **Supportive Communities:** Safe, livable communities; addressing root causes of chronic homelessness and/or lack of safe and affordable housing; advocacy for shelter/housing; access to emergency shelter resources
- Focus Areas for one-year grant partnership consideration; LCF is particularly interested in providing one-year grants around:
 - **Advocacy for the poor and underserved, particularly with regard to food**
 - **Animal Welfare**
 - **Quality of life for seniors (Licking County citizens 60 years and older)**

ELIGIBILITY

The Foundation will make grants to organizations after assessing the following:

- **IRS Charitable Status** – Nonprofit organizations in possession of a determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service declaring the organization a public charity that is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3). Charitable organizations must have a governing board, and conduct business without discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, age, disability, status as a veteran, national origin, or any other protected classes.
- **Geographic Area** – Nonprofit organizations must be operating or proposing to operate programs primarily for the benefit of Licking County residents.
- **Faith-Based Organizations** – May be considered for program funding provided there are no requirements to participate in religious instruction and/or take part in religious activities.
- **School Systems** – Grants to school systems will be considered at the district level.
- **Multi-Department or Branches** – Large organizations with many branches or departments (e.g., universities, colleges, YMCAs, public libraries) will be considered at the president’s office, director’s office, or development office level.
- **Previous Grantees** – Must have complied with all prior capacity-building and report conversation requirements, and be in good standing within any applicable national affiliations.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Increasing the capacity of nonprofits to respond effectively to community needs is essential. In general, the Foundation **will invite grant partners addressing the issues outlined in the prior sections regarding priority and focus areas.**

The Foundation may invite applications from organizations addressing other areas of need, as circumstances warrant.

LCF also seeks to increase its own capacity to learn about new efforts and needs. Any qualified charitable organization that meets the outlined eligibility criteria may contact LCF to share information. However, if the specific need falls outside LCF's identified priority and focus areas, it is unlikely to be considered for funding in that calendar year.

RESTRICTIONS

LCF **does not** award grants from its Discretionary Grant Program to:

- Individuals
- Religious organizations for religious purposes
- Private foundations
- Political organizations or candidates for public offices
- Lobbying activities

LCF does not **generally** award grants from its Discretionary Grant Program to:

- State and local government agencies (public good proposals may be eligible for grant consideration)
- Organizations that require the services of a fiscal agent in order to receive funds
- Organizations that provide incomplete information, or do not respond to requests for clarification/additional information
- Re-granting organizations
- Fraternal, political, labor, social, or veterans' groups
- Community athletic teams or groups
- School groups, such as athletic teams, bands, choral groups, drill teams, color guards, etc.
- Individual school classrooms
- Public agencies for mandated services
- Academic research
- Advertising and sponsorships
- Regularly occurring program expenses (e.g.: annual conferences, membership dues)
- Travel and conference attendance

EXCLUSIONS

The Foundation **will not** support:

- Annual campaigns, scholarship and endowment campaigns
- Budget deficits
- Debt retirement or restructuring
- Direct support of religious activities (secular activities provided by religious organizations may be eligible for grant funds)
- National fundraising drives, fundraising events, feasibility studies
- Lobbying activities and political activities
- Tickets for benefits
- Work or projects that have already taken place