



DEKALB COUNTY
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

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Promise Grants (Beca “Promesa”) GRANT GUIDELINES

Promise Grants support charitable community organizations that provide services to underserved and marginalized populations in DeKalb County.

Promise Grants are supported by two funds at the DeKalb County Community Foundation:

- **The Promise Fund** was created to inspire the community to build leadership skills and empower the underserved population within DeKalb County especially for recent immigrants.
- **The Wiegele Family Early Childhood Literacy Fund** was created to support early childhood literacy through organizations that provide direct outreach services to underserved populations of very young children (birth to kindergarten), including their parents, in DeKalb County.

ELIGIBILITY

Organizations eligible to apply for a Promise Grant are:

1. Agencies operating as a 501(c)3 / non-profit entity in DeKalb County, specifically those agencies serving an underserved population with specific or one-time needs.
2. School Districts, schools or education facilities
3. Churches and church related groups if proposed program is not religious in nature and does not require a religious commitment to participate

APPLYING FOR A GRANT

Promise Grant Applications are due online by midnight **Friday, November 11, 2016**. Grant applications must be submitted online. Grant decisions are generally made within one month of the application deadline and applicants will be notified electronically or by phone.

Promise Grant requests should not exceed \$2,500 but the average Promise Grant awarded is between \$500 to \$1,000.

Community Foundation staff and/or Promise Grants Committee members may contact applicants for further information. The DeKalb County Community Foundation operates without discrimination as to race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, and national origin.

GRANTMAKING PRIORITIES

Proposed projects will be reviewed on the basis of the following priorities:

- Increase participation of underserved populations in the center of community life
- Develop leadership skills in marginalized populations
- Increase understanding and tolerance
- Raise educational levels and enhance the quality of life
- Strengthen churches and other social institutions with the capacity to transform community perspectives
- Support early childhood literacy initiatives and literacy outreach for families with young children
- Nurture involvement and verbal interaction with babies and children prior to kindergarten
- Reach adults in an at-risk child's environment through literacy outreach including but not limited to new mothers, pregnant teens, single parents, homeless parents, preschool teachers and aides, nurses, and baby-sitters.

PROJECTS GENERALLY NOT FUNDED

- Religious purposes (grants can be given to religious organizations for non-religious purposes, or facilities such as day-care centers that have non-profit status independent from a sponsoring church or religious organization)
- Purchase of advertising
- Capital, debt reduction, or ongoing operating expenses
- Any political campaign or to support attempts to influence legislative issues of any government body
- Financial support to specific individuals

GRANT REPORTING

All grant recipients are required to submit a final Promise Grant Report (available through the online grant process) upon completion of the project or purpose for which the grant was requested.

Questions? Contact Anita Zurbrugg, Program Director
815-748-5383 or anita@dekalbccf.org