



DEKALB COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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COMMUNITY NEEDS GRANT GUIDELINES

Through the Community Needs Grant Program, the DeKalb County Community Foundation invests in the charitable efforts of nonprofit and community organizations throughout DeKalb County. Eligible applicants are government entities and 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations, with preference given to 501(c)3 organizations. The Community Foundation Board of Directors (Board) approves grants in response to applications from community organizations.

Applications are due by midnight on March 1 or September 1. The Community Foundation only accepts completed Community Needs grant applications during two grant periods each year. Applications are available online for two months immediately prior to the March 1 and September 1 grant deadlines.

Applicants requesting \$25,000 or more must contact the Community Foundation Grants Director, Tiffany McQueen Lewis (815-748-5383 or tiffany@dekalbccf.org), by February 1 for the spring grant season or August 1 for the fall grant season. Applications for greater than \$25,000 that have not been vetted with the Community Foundation by February 1 or August 1 will not be accepted.

Potential applicants for any grant amount are strongly encouraged to contact the Community Foundation prior to the grant deadline for help facilitating a successful application process.

GRANT GUIDELINES

When applying for a grant, please note the following:

- Grants are typically one-time awards supporting projects that will be completed within one year. When circumstances permit, a commitment may be made to a specific project for a longer period.
- Organizations can only receive one successful grant per two consecutive grant periods. For example, if an application in the fall grant period is funded in any amount, that organization is not eligible to receive another grant until at least the following fall. If a grant application *is not funded*, an organization may re-apply with a similar or new application in the next grant period. Please plan your project and grant request accordingly.
- The DeKalb County Community Foundation strives to fully fund grant requests received from its applicants. Due to the great needs of the community and the funds available to distribute, organizations may receive partial funding for their request. As a result, we strongly advise that the amount of grant requests be thoughtfully considered and accompanied by budgetary rationale to ensure that the amount requested represents your organization's needs.
- If an organization is awarded a grant and the organization chooses to decline the award, the organization is not eligible to apply for a grant the following grant period.
- In the case of larger requests (\$25,000 or greater), close attention is paid to the nonprofit's history, including:
 - Stability in staff and board
 - Excellence in financial management, and breadth and stability of funding
 - Scope of DeKalb County residents impacted by organization

GRANTMAKING PRIORITIES

The Community Foundation believes that it is necessary to invest its limited funds where they will have the greatest impact within the community. The Board has broadly defined the goals and priorities of its Community Needs grant making as follows:

- Promote and enhance organizations whose services benefit the residents of DeKalb County.
- Assist existing agencies to better respond to clearly defined unmet needs within the community.
- Encourage programs and projects that enhance cooperation and collaboration among organizations within DeKalb County. Examples of collaboration include partnering with community organizations, demonstrating community leadership, and being a contributing member of the DeKalb County Nonprofit Partnership (DCNP).
- Leverage funds and in-kind support, such as using "seed" money, "match" and "challenge" grants and funds from multiple sources.

PROJECTS GENERALLY NOT FUNDED

While the Community Foundation remains flexible in trying to meet community needs, in general, Community Needs Grants are not made for:

- Operational costs of projects, programs and organizations including updating technology unless those costs are directly related to the project or program
- Personnel and/or administrative costs unless they are directly related to the project or program
- Religious purposes (However, grants may be given to religious organizations for programs or projects that confer an expressed or direct community benefit or to facilities such as day-care centers that have non-profit status independent from a sponsoring church or religious organization)
- Purchase of advertising
- Capital or operation debt reduction
- Any political campaign or to support attempts to influence legislative issues of any government body
- Direct funding to individuals

FUNDING AREAS

The Community Foundation provides Community Needs Grants in the following areas:

- **Arts and Culture** – supports organizations that provide opportunities for access, participation, education, awareness, and appreciation for a variety of arts and cultural experiences.
- **Community Development** – supports organizations that focus broadly on strengthening, unifying and building the economic, cultural, and social services of a community.
- **Education** - Supports organizations that provide educational opportunities from birth to adulthood.
- **Environment and Animal Welfare** – supports organizations whose primary purpose is to preserve, protect, conserve and improve the environment. Animal Welfare supports organizations that promote the well-being of animals.
- **Health and Human Services** - supports organizations that provide essential programs and services addressing basic human needs to children, youth, adults, and senior citizens, and/or promoting physical and mental health.

ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS FOR GRANTEEES SERVING DEKALB COUNTY

Public School Districts – Within public school districts, the above mentioned guidelines apply to each school. For example, each elementary, middle, and high school building is eligible to receive one grant per two grant periods.

Higher Education – Within a community college or university, each “department” is eligible to receive one grant per two grant periods.

Municipal or Governmental Entities – Within governmental entities, each department (i.e. police, fire) is eligible to receive one grant per two grant periods.

APPLYING FOR A GRANT

To apply, organizations must complete an online Community Needs Grant Application at www.dekalbccf.org. No hard copy applications will be accepted. Applicants will be notified of the Foundation’s funding decisions near May 1 in the spring grant season, and November 1 in the fall grant season. Applicants will be notified of the Board’s funding decision by phone or e-mail. Community Foundation staff and/or board members may contact applicants for further information. For complex grant requests, the Grants Committee may request a presentation by the applicant or a site visit.

No person in the United States shall, on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity (as defined in paragraph 249(c)(4) of title 18, United States Code), sexual orientation, marital or parental status, political affiliation, military service, physical or mental ability, or any other improper criterion be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity funded in whole or in part with funds made available by the community foundation, and any other program or activity funded in whole or in part with funds appropriated for grants, cooperative agreements, and other assistance administered by the community foundation.

Guidelines last updated: 6/28/19