

CLAY COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION COMMUNITY BETTERMENT GRANTS

Information and Guidelines

The purpose of the Clay County Community Foundation is to connect donors who care with causes that matter, and to serve as a trusted resource for addressing issues that impact the quality of life in our county.

The Clay County Community Foundation anticipates having more than \$85,000 to distribute to nonprofit organizations in Clay County by March of each year, thanks to support from the Iowa Legislature and local donors. As a result, applications for CCCF Community Betterment Grants are currently being requested from nonprofit organizations and local governmental entities for projects that positively impact quality of life in Clay County.

Clay County Community Foundation funds can be used for broad, flexible purposes, including assisting arts and culture, economic development, education, environment, health and human services, recreation areas and supporting high-impact community opportunities. Funds are intended for new projects, or for the enhancement or expansion of existing services, programs, or facilities; on-going operational expenses of an organization are not eligible for grant funding. Grant requests may range from a \$500 minimum to a \$10,000 maximum.

Applications must be: 1) electronically submitted by completing the Grant Application online and 2) submitting a completed, printed grant application and supporting documents to the CCCF Administrative Office, c/o Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines. The grant submission deadline is January 15.

Eligibility

Eligible CCCF Community Betterment Grant applicants are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations and units of local government. Generally, CCCF will not consider grants for religious purposes, political activities, endowment, annual fund drives, individuals, capital campaigns, budget deficit, endowment, or general operating expenses.

CCCF Prioritized Needs (*in no particular order*)

Economic Development/Quality Job Creation – Focus is on innovative, nontraditional economic development activities, i.e. youth entrepreneurial development programs, artist entrepreneurship programs, microenterprise lending programs, etc.

Activities (Cultural, Recreational, Social, and Educational) – Special emphasis is placed on activities that bring people together throughout the county, and that bring people to the county.

Utilize and Support Existing Organizations, Resources, Services, and Facilities that Contribute to:

Quality of Life – Includes projects to more effectively market or make services and programs more fully available to people, whether through better marketing, or through efforts to accommodate employed parents' schedules, or the scheduling preferences or requirements of senior citizens, youth, individuals with special needs, etc.

Parks and Outdoor Recreation Facilities – This includes trails, campgrounds, and other recreational facilities.

Review of Grant Applications

The factors considered in reviewing the grant applications are as follows:

1. Applicant's Ability to Carry Out Project: (0 to 5 points)

Does applicant have a record of effective service? Is the applicant qualified and prepared to take on the proposed project? Is there broad community support (volunteers and financial) for the project?

2. Need and Impact: (0 to 30 points)

What need, problem or issue will be addressed by the project? How was the need identified? Does the proposed project address one or more of the Clay County Community Foundation's prioritized needs? (If so, which ones?) What other resources are available to fund or undertake the project? What other funding sources have been considered and explored? Why is a CCCF Community Betterment Grant needed to make this project happen? What will be the result of this project? Describe the individuals impacted by this project. How will Clay County communities be enhanced or improved by this project? What other future spin-off effects are anticipated?

3. Budget: (0 to 5 points)

How much is being requested from CCCF for this project? What is the total cost of the project? What is the source of other funds being provided for this project? Is the budget realistic? Is the funding amount requested appropriate?

4. Evaluation and Sustainability: (0 to 10 points)

What are the expected outcomes of this project? How will those outcomes be measured? Will this be a one-time event, or an on-going project? If it is intended to be on-going, how will it be sustained?

Clay County Community Foundation Grant Application Checklist:

- One completed, emailed online Grant Application to infocccf@gmail.com
- One completed, printed, and mailed copy of the online Grant Application, along with the following to the CCCF Administrative Office:
 - Supporting Documents
 - Current Copy of IRS Determination ruling letter, unit of local government verification letter, or Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement form
 - Names and titles of organization leadership, including trustees, directors, board officers and key staff personnel.
 - Organization's current operating budget, including a list of principal sources of income.
 - Most current monthly financial statement.
 - Most recent year-end financial statement. (If available, one copy of audited statement should be attached to the original application.)
 - *(Optional)* Any attachments that will help clarify organization's credibility or intent of project

Deadline:

Applicants must submit an electronic Grant Application by the January 15 deadline -

- One (1) The electronic copy should be emailed to infocccf@gmail.com
 - and -
 - One (1) printed complete electronic application with all supporting documents to:
CCCF Administrative Office, c/o Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines, 1915 Grand Ave, Des Moines, IA 50309.
- If the deadline falls on a weekend or holiday, both electronic submission and postmark deadlines are the first working day after January 15.

If you have questions, please send an e-mail to infocccf@gmail.com.