

# Guidelines for Grantseekers



**The Community Foundation**

## Our Mission

The Community Foundation is committed to improving the quality of life for all in the community.

## Our Vision

The Community Foundation will have a lasting impact on the community.

**Dear Friend of the Foundation,**

Thank you for your interest in partnering with The Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation and our mission to improve the quality of life for all in the community. For over 50 years, The Community Foundation has had the privilege of working alongside our community to support charitable causes. We have a long history of collaboration, dating back to our beginnings as the Dorney Fund of the Cleveland Foundation, which evolved into the independent Community Foundation you know today. This growth is a testament to our enduring commitment to serving as a bridge between generous donors and impactful organizations like yours.

Our team believes that grantmaking is more than a simple transaction. Working with the Foundation is a deep-seated partnership. We're eager to learn about your organization, your work and your vision for our community. We believe that by working together, we can achieve a meaningful and lasting impact. We serve all of Hancock County, and our grantmaking priorities are shaped by the community itself through local data and community-driven conversations. We're especially interested in projects that address a root cause and can create lasting, systems-level change.

This guide provides an overview of our grant processes, including our policies, priorities and deadlines. It will also help you understand how we work and the factors that influence our grantmaking decisions. Please remember that our community engagement staff is here to support you every step of the way. We look forward to working with you to make a positive impact in our community.

Sincerely,

*Brian P. Teece*

Brian P. Teece, Ed.D.  
President & CEO

## Guidelines for Grantseekers

There is no prescription to ensure success in obtaining a grant. Each proposal is evaluated based on its potential benefit to the people living in our community, the imagination, resourcefulness, and credibility of those submitting it, as well as specific grant criteria.

Potential grant applicants are encouraged to contact Community Engagement staff at the Foundation to discuss grant ideas prior to submitting a request. This will ensure that ideas align with the grant criteria, and staff can provide guidance on which grant process is most suitable.

## Who is eligible for a grant?

Most grants are made to tax-exempt, private agencies classified as 501(c)(3) organizations, public charities as defined by the Internal Revenue Service. Grants may also be made to governmental agencies. The programs we consider for support are located in the Hancock County area or will directly benefit residents of Hancock County.

For projects addressing complex social issues, The Community Foundation expects the grant applicant to follow collective impact and coalition-building best practices and to integrate the planned work into existing coalitions in Hancock County. Collective impact is a model that guides organizations from different sectors to collaborate on solving a specific, complex social problem using a shared agenda, aligning their work and using common measures of success. To create lasting solutions to complex social problems on a large scale, organizations must coordinate their efforts and collaborate around a clearly defined goal.

## Grant Types

### Responsive Grants

Responsive grants enable the Foundation to respond to the evolving needs of organizations and communities. These grants are funded through the endowed Unrestricted and Field of Interest funds set up by The Community Foundation's fundholders. Responsive grant applications are accepted on a quarterly basis and are reviewed by Foundation staff and/or the Grants Committee/Board.

Letter of Intent Due First Friday of:	Full Proposals Due First Friday of:	Interviews with Grants Committee:	Board Decision:
October	December	January/February	February
January	March	April/May	May
April	June	July/August	August
July	September	October/November	November

### Education Grants (Due the first Friday of March - Decision in April)

- *Allan H. Davis Civic Education Fund Grants*

The Allan H. Davis Civic Education Fund supports grants to promote the civic engagement of Findlay High School students with a focus on providing extracurricular activities and opportunities that will teach them about the rights and duties of citizens and inspire them to be active participants in the

United States democratic process.

- *Hancock Education Fund Grants*

The purpose of the Hancock Education Fund is to promote innovative learning in Findlay City Schools and Hancock County Schools by providing teachers with resources that encourage the development of 21st-century skills in students. Up to \$60,000 a year is made available for this grant process.

- *HancockREADS Grants*

The HancockREADS Fund supports grants designed to meet community literacy needs, addressing existing or new projects. Up to \$10,000 a year is available for this grant process.

- *Bill and Eveline Stitt Early Literacy Mentoring Grants*

The Bill and Eveline Stitt Early Literacy Mentoring Grant supports early literacy intervention through mentorship. The intervention program is designed for students in PreK-3.

### **Community Mental Health Grants (Due the last Friday of June - Decision in August)**

Through the Community Conversations process, mental health and harmful substance use were identified as a significant and ongoing area of concern for Hancock County. To address these concerns, we are seeking proposals from nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations and churches, that focus on providing services to enhance emotional and mental health for residents of Findlay and Hancock County, Ohio. Projects should focus on significant local undertakings. This is intended to support programs and operations of nonprofit organizations that meet the criteria stated above. Special attention will be given to innovative approaches that include collaborative partnerships and/or significant engagement/outreach and will have a measurable impact.

### **Fun for All Grants (Accepted on an ongoing basis)**

This grant program was developed in response to listening to area residents about what matters most to them. During our 2022 Community Conversation process, we heard from over 1,000 residents. One of the priorities identified was the need for more free community events. This grant process started in 2023, and \$100,000 is available annually for grants to support free community events.

### **President's Discretionary Grants (By invitation only)**

These grants are awarded from an annual pool of \$30,000. Individual grants from this pool will range from \$250 to \$5,000. The focus of this grant changes annually.

### **Special Grant Opportunities (Timelines vary per Special Grant Opportunity)**

Occasionally, Special Grant Opportunities are made available to support specific areas of focus. Each will have its own criteria, timeline, and available grant amount.

### **Handbags that Help Grants (Visit our website for grant deadlines)**

Handbags That Help (HTH) is a women's giving circle dedicated to improving lives throughout Hancock County by funding significant grants to charitable projects and programs. HTH requests grant proposals from nonprofit organizations for programs in Hancock County, Ohio, focused on building strong families

by addressing an urgent and critical need, a bold new adventure or a new approach to an ongoing problem in the community.

## **Online Grant Process**

The Foundation has an online grant process. For instructions on how to establish a profile and apply for grants through this portal, please contact Community Engagement staff at (419) 425-1100.

The Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation  
101 West Sandusky Street, Suite 207  
Findlay, OH 45840

For more information about The Community Foundation, please call (419) 425-1100.  
Visit our website [www.community-foundation.com](http://www.community-foundation.com) or stop by our office.