

Frequently Asked Questions About Grants The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC)

What is the first step in submitting a Grant Application to The Foundation?

Contact the Program Officer at The Foundation at 717-236-5040 to discuss the project. This preliminary conversation with a Foundation Program Officer is important. Your Program Officer can help you decide which funding strategy your project best exemplifies.

Is Technical Assistance available from the Foundation?

Grantees may request review of their draft program narratives, budget worksheets, and logic model by Program Department staff. These requests should be limited to two reviews before finalizing your proposals. Staff will NOT be able to honor technical assistance requests made later than one week prior to the grant submission deadline.

What are The Foundation's Funding Priorities?

Please refer to each regional component or project's specific grant guidelines for the funding priorities.

What if a nonprofit organization is not sure where their project fits?

This is why your preliminary talk with a Foundation Program Officer is so important. Your Program Officer will help you decide which strategy your project exemplifies.

What is the grant term for a project?

An organization may submit a proposal for a project for a maximum of 12 months. However, the Whitaker Foundation Regional Program allows submissions for up to 36 months.

Must an organization be physically located in the geographic area that is specified in the grant guidelines?

An applying organization may be physically located in another county, however, services must be provided to those residents of the county covered by the specific regional component to be eligible to apply for funding through The Foundation. Funding will be considered only for the portion of the program which serves the residents of the counties under which the regional component falls.

What are the deadlines for applying for a grant through The Foundation for Enhancing Communities?

The Foundation has various deadlines for its regional components, please refer to the TFEC home page of the website and the specific grant guidelines for the dates.

How much funding may an organization request?

This varies for each regional component. Please refer to each regional component's specific grant guidelines for this information.

How long does it take to review a proposal?

Please allow up to eight weeks for the initial review of your request. Notification letters will be issued as soon as the review process has been completed.

Can I fax or e-mail my grant application?

The Foundation does not accept applications by fax or e-mail. However, some regional components require electronic submissions of certain parts of the application in addition to hard copies. Please refer to each regional component's specific grant guidelines for this information.

What can cause my application to be returned?

Failure to follow the steps outlined in the Grant Guidelines, including the following:

- Not including all necessary attachments.
- Not stapling collated copies (e.g. using paperclips, binder clips, envelopes, etc.).
- Not providing the correct number of copies of the application.
- Applications submitted after the grant deadline.

How important is the sustainability of my project?

The Foundation believes that funding through our grantmaking process should be used as a piece of the puzzle to develop a comprehensive fundraising/development strategy. We are very interested in organizations that demonstrate the ability to leverage additional community resources and partnerships to ensure continuation of the project after Foundation funding has ended. The Foundation will not fund 100% of any project.

Will grant recipients be required to submit a final evaluation?

Yes, all grant recipients will be required to submit both a six month and final evaluation report. You may download a copy of the evaluation forms from the regional component or special project's link.

How does The Foundation measure a project's success?

The Foundation recognizes and embraces the shift of accountability to challenge organizations to document the outcomes of grant projects. The Foundation measures success of a project by site visits, completed evaluations and the attainment of outcomes.