

# 2020 GREATER HARRISBURG COMMUNITY FOUNDATION UPSTREAM GRANT APPLICATION

**DATE DUE: AUGUST 1, 2020** 

Thank you for applying to the Greater Harrisburg Foundation, a regional foundation of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities. Tell your story clearly and concisely. Attachments are required; follow all directions. Failure to answer questions, utilize this template, or attach required documents will disqualify your application. Answer all questions using information that applies to the project seeking support of grant funds. Contact Jennifer Strechay, Program Offer for Community Investment, at jstrechay@tfec.org or 717-236-5040 with questions.

#### **APPLICANT PROFILE**

# Applicant Organization Name

LEAF Project Inc.

Provide your organization's name as currently recognized by the IRS

- Check box if the Applicant Organization Name above is a "Doing Business As" name and the provided 501c3 letter states a different name. To be recognized by the "Doing Business As" name, attach ONE legal document using the provided name. If not provided, TFEC will utilize the 501c3 name.
   Check box if the Applicant Organization uses a Fiscal Sponsor and provide name here
  - Check box if the Applicant Organization uses a Fiscal Sponsor and provide name here Click or tap here to enter text.

#### Name, Title, Email, Phone of Executive Leader

Heidi Witmer, Executive Director, <u>heidi@leafprojectpa.org</u>, 717-275-2330 All contracts and notifications of grant status will be addressed to the individual provided here

# **Applicant Organization's Physical Address**

554 Warm Springs Road, Landisburg, PA 17040

# **Applicant Organization's Address for Mailed Communications**

Same as above

All contracts and notifications of grant status will be sent to the address provided here

### Name, Title, Email, Phone of Contact Completing Application

Shane Kaplan., Director of Learning, shane@leafprojectpa.org, 717-601-5899

If application questions arise, this individual will be contacted by TFEC staff

#### Organization's Mission Statement

The LEAF Project cultivates young leaders from diverse backgrounds through meaningful work in the food system.

## Organization History (Do not exceed this page)

LEAF was founded in 2013 by a group of educators seeking to provide meaningful growth opportunities for their students. Founder Heidi Witmer pulled together advisors from the fields of agriculture, culinary, education, and community development. While LEAF started as an intensive paid summer internship for local youth working alongside our regions' best farmers and chefs, we now hire youth into year-round positions. For

# **PROJECT PROFILE**

Project Title :

Question 2 of the Impact Narrative.

The LEAF Project: Growing Resilience	
Project Areas of Focus  ☐ UPSTREAM GENERAL  Choose UPstream General if your project utilizes upstream strategies but categories below. See the grant guidelines for additional detail.	is not principally centered upon the
UPSTREAM: FOCUS AREAS Choose an UPstream Focus Area (if your project is principally centered up Please select only those area(s) that apply to this project. See the grant go	
EDUCATION  ☐ Programs & projects that focus upon or nurture access to early childhood education ☐ Education & development programs for children & youth ☐ Educational programs serving adults	ENVIRONMENT & PARKS  ☐ Environmental stewardship ☐ Horticulture & the arts ☐ Health & environment ☐ Park beautification & improvement
HEALTH  Health & human services Cancer awareness and/or research Dental care for those in need Health & human services HIV & AIDS Individuals with debilitating or terminal illness Individuals with intellectual disabilities Prevention of head and/or spinal cord injury Purchasing of devices that improve accessibility	HOMELESSNESS  Homelessness & hunger
MENTAL HEALTH  □ Counseling for children with terminally ill family members □ Guidance, counseling, or programming that includes guidance and/or counseling for youths □ Mental health	SENIORS  ☐ Programs & projects serving older adults
COMMUNITIES OF FOCUS  ☐ Disaster relief & human services that serve the communities of Le ☐ Programs and projects that benefit residents of Millersburg, a boro ☐ Projects to enhance Camp Hill Borough parks provided by youth or other youth organizations; programs & projects that focus upon or education within Camp Hill.	ugh of Dauphin County, PA organizations such as Scout programs
Counties to be served as part of project; check all that apply. ☐ Cumberland ☐ Dauphin ☐ Franklin ☐ Lebanon ☐ P	erry <mark> Northern York (Dillsburg Area)</mark>
Projected Number of Individuals to be served by project	he project

## **PROJECT SNAPSHOT**

1. Capture your UPstream project and the community need it seeks to address in 200 words or less.

LEAF aims to provide truly transformational youth development work which can only be achieved through providing rigorous real-world challenges for young people- specifically feeding and educating our community. In practice, this looks like hiring youth from diverse backgrounds ages 14-22 from throughout South Central PA including Dauphin, Cumberland, and Perry, and Northern York counties into paid year-round internships working on our farm and in the food system. All youth start with an intensive summer internship, after which they may apply for fall, spring, and winter positions which occur after school and on weekends. Youth receive job training, practice LEAF's feedback process, develop farm work and culinary skills, participate in weekly workshops on food, nutrition, and public speaking skills, and facilitate hands-on programs (or virtual programs) for our community. This kind of work isn't happening anywhere else and addresses the community need for youth to develop practical skills, professionalism, and leadership development. Through the youths' outreach efforts, LEAF also serves the youth's families, community members, and low to moderate income neighbors. The range of services our youth provide to these constituencies include cooking classes, nutrition workshops, food system education, and donated produce and prepared foods. We are seeking funding for our entry-level summer internship through this grant request.

## **PROJECT NARRATIVE**

Answer questions 2-10 clearly and concisely; no limit.

2. The GHCF UPstream grant opportunity seeks to improve our area communities by supporting existing or new "upstream" systems, interventions, programs, or projects that attempt to create positive social change by addressing a problem at its source rather than managing its "downstream" symptoms. Describe your proposed upstream project, the geographic area it will serve, and the audience to be served; state why this audience was selected. Include how/why your project is "upstream" and how your project is working to address a specific need or needs. You MUST use and complete the following statement within your answer, "Grant funds will be used to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_".

When the LEAF Project was founded, it was in the aftermath of the largest financial crisis of our lives up until that point. We saw that in the midst of that scary moment, our youth were being left behind. As adults took jobs traditionally staffed by teenagers, the opportunity for youth to work, and the accompanying sense that they were important quickly evaporated. During that time- around 2012-13, youth employment was at an all time low, only one in four youth who could get a job had one. LEAF was successful as a start up because we partnered with our youth's untapped potential and provided youth with an opportunity that was rare - to do meaningful work which made a direct impact within their own communities. LEAF has done exactly that over the past 7 years by hiring 150 youth into year-round positions managing farm and food ventures, working alongside regional leaders in our food system, and launching new initiatives that have fed and educated tens of thousands within our region.

Before the pandemic, many youth were still missing out in the important rite of passage of work- which has benefited many previous generations. In 1980, 60% of teens on average were working or looking for work, last year, just 35% were according to Federal Reserve Economic Data. The result is that youth were/are missing out on a crucial opportunity to develop themselves and to see first-hand that that they matter. To complicate these issues further, our community and country as a whole have found ourselves in an even scarier moment than when LEAF launched: dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. While we know the virus itself won't last forever, the damage to our economy and the social fabric our youth and vulnerable neighbors rely on, may last for a long time and will require resilience for us to persevere.

Farming has always been about adapting to what's happening - in the sky, in the soil, in the marketplace. That's actually what makes it such a profound tool for cultivating youth leaders, because the ingredients for resilience are built in. So far in the pandemic, LEAF and the youth interns have taken that spirit of adaptability to a new level. On that fateful Friday in March when everything shut down, LEAF staff hatch a plan which we launched the following Monday to provide resources to each youth at their home for gardening and cooking projects as well as digitizing our spring leadership development curriculum via Zoom. For several weeks, LEAF was the only youth program functioning including school programs; our programming got more sophisticated throughout the spring and as youth gained competency they increased their output using collaborative docs, and creating outreach, fundraising, and recruitment materials.

As we moved into the summer, LEAF staff explored how an on-farm program might be able to function. Our board created a Pandemic Taskforce which systematically turned guidance from the CDC and PA DOH into guidelines about how to run a socially-distant summer program. From their recommendations, we launched our adapted summer program with simple, clear daily practices to keep us all safe including daily screenings and temperature checks, remaining outdoors at all times (not so hard on a farm!), maintaining 6' of distance at all times, always having LEAF-provided masks (washed daily following CDC guidelines), routine handwashing times, and sanitizing procedures. It took some time to get used to, however we can report that this is one of the most meaningful summer programs we've ever run. As a result of the youth's work, we are still providing hundreds of pounds of produce per week to families of all backgrounds while cultivating each youth's leadership skills, and maintaining a high standard of safe workplace operations through it all. One week from the conclusion of the summer program, we can report that no infections have happened here.

During the coming year, we anticipate that our community will face challenges that require collective resolve and concerted effort from all. LEAF's recent experience and our mission "to cultivate young leaders from diverse backgrounds through meaningful work in the food system" sets us up well to support our community as it works through this pending uncertainty. The resources we have to offer are our youth workers, our farm which produces thousands of pounds of produce each year, and the ingenuity of our program team.

<u>Our Proposed Project:</u> Throughout this year, our plan is to hire 25 youth from Cumberland, Dauphin, York, and Perry counties, who over the course of the year-round internship will develop leadership, workforce, eating habit changes. Their output in the community will include building food resilience in their communities though home and community garden building, online growing and cooking modules, and donations of vegetables and prepared food. <u>Grant funds will be used to hire youth and staff during the summer, and pay for supplies needed to run the program such as kitchen and farm materials and educational workshop supplies.</u>

#### **DATES & LOCATIONS**

3. When and where will the project take place? List dates and locations as appropriate in chronological order. State if provided dates/locations are confirmed, estimated, or to be determined.

For the year-round internship, our home base is the LEAF farm located in Landisburg, Perry County. It is a diversified vegetable farm managed by the LEAF youth. During the pandemic, our summer program is at the farm 5 days a week. In the fall, winter, and spring (during the school year) we operate after school 2 days a week and for one weekend day per week at the farm. Depending on the guidance from Federal, State and local authorities we will be prepared at any time to change to an adapted program, which could include staggered scheduling, remote programming, or a combination. As a farm-based program, we have the distinct advantage of an outdoor environment which significantly reduces our risk potential.

In terms of dates, we can estimate that the fall program, happening 3 days a week as described above, will be approximately 10 weeks starting in early September through the end of October. We estimate that the winter

internship will be approximately 13 weeks from the start of November through mid-March (with a winter break in late December through mid January). We estimate that the spring internship will be 10 weeks and runs from April through mid-June. We estimate that the summer internship will be 7 weeks from mid-June to early August.

#### **ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES**

4. Does the project involve partnerships, collaborations, service, or affiliations with other organizations that will strengthen the project? If so, LIST their name(s) and corresponding role(s) within the categories below OR if this does not apply to you, state why your project is best positioned for success as a single organization.

**COLLABORATIONS:** We are working with other organizations to make this project happen, but we serve as the lead organization for this grant opportunity and our project success is enriched by, but not dependent upon, our collaborators. An additional letter is NOT required, but may help the application.

From the start, LEAF has been built on a web of powerful collaborations with regional farms, chefs, and community organizations. These collaborations are evaluated each season by the collaborating organization and by the LEAF youth crew, refining and developing the relationship as needed.

Our Collaborating Farms: The LEAF Project is built on a network of farm collaborations from diverse aspects of our food system. These farmers have been foundationally involved in developing the LEAF model from the beginning and are highly invested in developing the market for locally-grown food in our region. Our collaborating farms have meaningfully supported LEAF by hosting our youth, providing mentorship to LEAF's farm staff, harvest equipment, and occasional donations of produce when needed. While we didn't go to visit these farms in 2020, we hope to be able to next year. Our partner farms include:

- Good Keeper Farm, Gardners, PA- small scale diversified vegetable & and full diet CSA
- Spiral Path Farm, Loysville, PA large scale organic diversified vegetable operation
- Three Springs Fruit Farm, Aspers, PA apple/diversified small fruit operation
- Ellerman Family Farm, Newville, PA large scale grains and commodity crops
- Keswick Creamery, Newburg, PA artisanal cheese and dairy operation
- North Mountain Pastures, Newport, PA diversified pastured meat operation

Our Collaborating Chefs: LEAF works with a remarkable network of executive chefs who support LEAF by providing culinary instruction to youth interns thereby increasing their overall culinary literacy and consumption of fresh vegetables among the youth themselves and ultimately their families and communities. In 2020, chefs came to the farm to deliver in person- but outside cooking lessons with portable stoves and equipment.

- Chef Barry Crumlich, Executive Chef of the PA Governor's Residence
- Chef David Mills- HACC Culinary Instructor/ Founder of Smoke and Pickles
- Chef Kurt Wewer- Allenberry Resort
- Chef John Reis- The Hilton Harrisburg
- -Chef Tracy Stritch- Carlisle Area School District
- Chef Qui Qui Musarra, Mangia Qui & Rubicon Restaurants
- -Chef Jesse Burham, Stocks on 2nd Restaurant

Our Collaborating Community Organizations: LEAF works with several community organizations that are primary service providers for people in need. LEAF youth provide cooking instruction gained from their own training with chefs, fresh food prepared from our vegetables, on-farm and in-school lessons about vegetables and healthy eating, etc.

- -Salvation Army-Throughout the summer, chefs come to LEAF to teach practical cooking skills to youth so they gain skills to cook with wholesome ingredients for a lifetime. After each session the youth then scale up the recipes to serve people in need at Salvation Army.- This year we deliver the meals instead of staying to serve.
- -Project SHARE- LEAF works with Project SHARE to provide discounted vegetables to the summer "lunch and learn" program which features fresh food and cooking lessons to children from low income backgrounds. LEAF youth also work at Project SHARE to create samples of meals that clients can make with available produce during distribution
- -New Life Community- Through this collaboration LEAF is providing weekly produce shares to feed five families of essential workers in the food service industry who are experiencing food insecurity. We have also built an extra large garden box kit and provided technical assistance for maintaining it for low income families who live on the grounds at NLC.

#### COMPARABLES

5. Are other organizations in your service area providing services that are similar to your proposed project? If yes, state their names or services and explain how your project differs. If no, state NA.

NA

#### **ASSESSMENT & IMPACT**

**6a.** What will project success look like? Provide a brief overview of the project's key outcomes, outputs, and/or other results of success.

LEAF was founded on the idea that our youth, when cultivated, have the capacity to become change-agents in their own neighborhoods. This is what we call the "LEAF multiplier effect": the significant investment we put into youth comes back to benefit our community multi-fold. Therefore, when we describe what success looks like, we talk in terms of tiers. LEAF's tiers of impact include: youth, families of youth, and the wider community. Below, we have included some narrative descriptions about who we serve and what services they receive:

- <u>Tier 1- 25 Youth Key outcomes, outputs, and results-youth will increase in leadership development skills, workforce skills, and will eat more fruits and vegetables by the end of the program</u>
- <u>Tier 2- 75 Family Members</u>-Key outcomes, outputs, and results- Families of the LEAF youth will increase fruit and vegetable consumption and will eat together as a family more due to increased access, education, and desire driven by their child.
- <u>Tier 3- 3,300 Community Members</u>- Key outcomes, outputs, and results- Community members will be reached through education (online or in person) like cooking and gardening lessons, receiving garden kit construction, food education, and donations of fresh and prepared foods.
- **6b.** How will project success be measured and documented (i.e.: how will you know the project is successful? Are you collecting value statements, numbers served, surveys, photos, before and after images, or using other methods)?

The LEAF Project is unique in our region because we cultivate youth potential by providing opportunities for genuine responsibility and real challenges on the farm. When our youth are

cultivated in this way, they not only have the power to change their own lives, but can impact all of those around them as well. Which is why we project and measure success in terms of tiers. The first tier is the youth themselves.

#### Tier 1 Targets: Youth hired by the LEAF Project

Of the 25 youth who will be hired by the LEAF Project in 2021:

- \* 85% will show an increase leadership skills by the end of the program as measured by pre and post assessment conducted by staff using 5 observable behavioral criteria categories.
- \*85% will show an increase in workforce development skills by the end of the program as measured by pre and post assessment conducted by staff using 8 observable behavioral criteria categories.
- \* 85% will eat more fruits and vegetables by the end of the program as measured by pre and post food logs

#### Tier 2 Targets: Family members of the LEAF youth

Of the approximately 75 individual family members of LEAF youth in 2021:

- \* 90% will increase or maintain a high-level of eating home-cooked meals together by the end of the program as measured by pre and post family food assessments
- \* 85% will increase or maintain a high-level of vegetable consumption by the end of the program as measured by pre and post family food assessments

#### Tier 3 Targets: Our wider community in South Central PA

- 3,300 Community members will receive education and or servings of healthy locally-sourced food grown and prepared by LEAF youth including:
- \* 300 people at Salvation Army served farm-to-table, nutrient-rich meals throughout the summer
- \* 2,000 servings of fresh produce, preserves, and/or prepared food delivered to community members
- \*1,000 individuals reach through youth/ staff education efforts to include in-person or virtual lessons on: gardening, farm ecology, cooking, and nutrition.

#### **FUNDING & SUPPORT**

- 7. If this proposal is not funded at the level requested, will you be able to implement the project as stated? Explain as needed.
  - If this proposal is not funded, the LEAF Project is prepared to make up the deficit in funding through multiple streams of revenue. These include other grants, special events, donations, and income from produce sales.
- 8. This grant opportunity will not fund 100% of any project. Restate the amount you are seeking and describe other funding sources and amounts.

We are seeking \$10,000 from TFEC to support our year-round youth internship. We have listed other sources of funding we will seek below- these numbers are based on our current budget as our 2021 budget isn't completed at this time.:

45% Grants (Private foundations or governmental grants)

#### Secured Grants:

Partnership for Better Health- \$10,000

#### **Pending Grant Requests:**

USDA (Department of Agriculture)- \$38,000

G.B. Stuart Charitable Foundation- \$21,000

Hoverter Foundation- \$40,000

USDA Youth Agriculture Grant- \$7,500

Stabler Foundation- \$40,000

Highmark: \$1,500

PPL Foundation: \$2,500

Partnership for Better Health(Covid emergency grant)- \$12,453

Rite Aid Kid Cents- \$20,000

John Crain Kunkle Foundations: \$3,000

#### 25% Donations:

\$94,056

13% Events:

<u>\$48,600</u>

17% Self-Generated Income/ Youth-Led Ventures:

<u>\$59,135</u>

9. Did the applicant organization end its most recent fiscal year with a budget surplus or deficit? If so, briefly state the amount of the surplus or deficit and state how the surplus may be used (i.e. is it earmarked for another program) and/or how the deficit may be handled.

LEAF operates on a fiscal calendar year and we ended 2019 with a surplus of \$30,000. These funds will be used, in part to begin to recruit and hire staff into a professional operations position to help LEAF continue to grow and reach more people in our community

#### **ACCESS & INCLUSION**

10. As a community foundation, TFEC fosters a climate of purposeful inclusion that values diversity of gender, age, race, ethnicity, national origin, range of abilities, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status. Please state how your project will be made accessible to all individuals who qualify for participation in the project and describe any accommodations, modifications, technologies, or services you will offer to ensure that all eligible participants experience the best possible services or outcomes.

Diversity among the youth, including background, identity, ability level, and past achievements or challenges, is an essential aspect of the summer internship recruitment efforts. LEAF aims to use diversity as a functional aspect of the program, allowing youth to learn from each other and explore larger topics through discussing their background and family culture. We intentionally hire for, and openly talk about diversity and how it affects us all.

In terms of adaptations and accommodations, the staff will provide scaffolding to support each youth's development based on their abilities and needs. This summer, for example, we have youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder, with ADHD, and youth with chronic health issues. In each case we have worked with these individuals to provide the structure that each needs in order to be successful.

# **BUDGET WORKSHEET**

# Complete the Budget Worksheet below; a Project Total is required.

ITEM OR SERVICE Examples include: Contracted Services, Equipment, Personnel, Supplies; list your own as appropriate.	DESCRIPTION OF ITEM OR SERVICE	REQUESTED GRANT FUNDS Indicate where funds sought through this grant opportunity will be applied.	OTHER FUNDING SOURCES State the names and amounts of all other funding sources.	PENDING, COMMITTED, OR RECEIVED Using a P, C, or R, indicate the status of all funding sources.	\$ TOTALS  Add across to provide a total for each row.  Total columns as indicated in bottom row.
Staff Compensation:	Program Coordinator, partial time of other staff	\$2,500	\$8,080-USDA \$10,000-Partners hip for better health \$20,000 Hoverter	P C P	\$40,580
Youth Compensation:	Youth Stipends (equivalent to \$1,000 over course of 7 weeks)	\$6,500	\$35,000- Fundraising efforts	Р	\$41,500
Equipment:	Farm (tools), Program (printer), and Kitchen Equipment	\$	\$8,100-USDA	Р	\$8,100
Supplies (Program, Farm, Kitchen, Office)	Farm (seeds), Program (folders, etc), Kitchen (ingredients)	\$1,000	\$4,000	Р	\$5,000
Insurance	General liability and workers compensation insurance	\$	\$550- Fundraising	Р	\$550
Transportation	Fuel, maintenance fees		\$2,000- Fundraising	Р	\$2,000
Facilities & Rentals	Monthly rental of administrative and facility space, portable toilet	\$	\$6,000- Fundraising	Р	\$6,000
Administrative Costs	Accounting review, payroll administration	\$	\$4,000- Fundraising	Р	\$4,000
TOTALS		\$10,000  Total: Requested Grant Funds	\$97,730  Total: Other Funding Sources		\$107,730 PROJECT TOTAL

# LEAF BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATED JANUARY 2020



## TRACY STRITCH, CHAIR

Cooperative Education Coordinator, Carlisle Area School District 27 W. Eppley Dr Carlisle, PA 17015 (717) 422-2659 stritcht@carlisleschools.org

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Director, Popel Shaw Center for Race & Ethnicity, Dickinson College 216 West Pomfret Street, Apt. 1, Carlisle, PA 17013 (315) 491-6107 stephenv@dickinson.edu

#### SUSAN R. OTWAY, TREASURER

U.S. Service Parts Operations Executive, IBM (retired) 753 West South Street Carlisle, PA 17013 (717) 226-0681 srotway@aol.com

#### SARAH BAY NAWA, SECRETARY

Research Coordinator, PASA Sustainable Agriculture 10 Hollar Ave, Shippensburg, PA 17257 (717) 576-4832 bay.sara.e@gmail.com

#### **OLAF HASSE**

Vice President, F&M Trust Loan Portfolio Risk Management Officer 20 South Main Street Chambersburg PA 17201 (717) 261- 3541 olaf.hasse@f-mtrust.com

#### MEGAN RULLI

JD Candidate Dickinson School of Law 107 Forge Road Boiling Springs PA 17007 (717) 514-4256 megan.rulli@gmail.com

#### **ELLEN PETERS OTTO**

Community Volunteer 1002 Hillside Drive Carlisle, PA 17013 (717) 324-0504 ellenbpotto@gmail.com

#### CHEF BARRY CRUMLICH

Executive Chef Pennsylvania Governor's Residence 2035 N Front St, Harrisburg, PA 17102 717-787-0658 bcrumlich@pa.gov

#### SARA PREDMORE

Administrator, Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference 313 Orange St Carlisle PA 17013 (717) 701-9918 sarapredmore@yahoo.com

#### KAITLIN HEDBERG

Director of Engagement Strategy, Office of Development Communications at Penn State University 54 S. Pitt Street Carlisle PA 17013 (814) 933-6151 kaitlinrosehedberg@gmail.com 717.249.1411 717.245.9473 Fax www.salvationarmycarlisle.org 20 E. Pomfret Street Carlisle, PA 17013



Teaching for Life Change Sharing the Gospel Assisting Human Needs

July 29, 2020

Dear The Foundation for Enhancing Communities:

We, at The Salvation Army in Carlisle, are grateful for the partnership we share with the LEAF Project. Despite the changes to services related to Covid-19, the staff and youth were, once again, able to prepare meals that we served to the men, women, and children that are our guests at our community feeding program, known as MBT. Our Cook has been putting in extra days each week to prepare meals, so she was particularly thankful that she was given a reprieve from cooking. We received lots of positive feedback from the meals that were prepared and delivered.

We couldn't fulfill our mission without the support of donors and volunteers. We are continually thankful for this opportunity to work with the LEAF Project each summer. They provide a valuable service to our community and are grateful that we benefit from what the youth are learning during their time.

Warmest regards,

Trinette Ream

Social Services Director

Salvation Army-Carlisle



Provide signatures	s from the appli	icant organization, below.	Both organization	representatives must sign.			
By providing your o is true to the best of of your Complete Ap	your knowledge	l signature below, you agree and may be submitted for	that the provided in review. Completion (	nformation in this application of this form is one component			
President/C		gnature A. A.		tap here to enter text. Signature			
☑ Board Presi	dent Ink Si	out Stukh ignature		tap here to enter text. Signature			
REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS TO BE UPLOADED & SUBMITTED BY 4PM ON THE DEADLINE DATE All grant materials must be submitted through the TFEC online application system by 4pm on the deadline date This grant opportunity does not utilize delivered or mailed materials.							
Mankahant and	Sign & Submit	nt Profile, Project Profile, F Form with original or digit	il Signatures.				
☐ Board of Directo	ors List: Profess	ional affiliations (ie: work	ositions and/or titl	es as applicable) must be			
organization's Bominimum of ON	rs that will best oard of Director IE letter of supp	rs will not be accepted. Id port is REQUIRED for this	entical form letters grant opportunity r	regardless of response to			
must upload let	ters with origin	al or digital signatures do	t if support is expr	essty stated.			
☐ Applicants who Fiscal Sponsor of signature is requ	utilize a FISCA rganization ind ired.	L SPONSOR must include icating agreement to serv	a letter signed by	the Executive Leader of the nsor. An original or digital			
☐ IRS 501(c)(3) de	termination let	tter.	If 990 is not availa	ble, upload applicant			
☐ 1st Page of Applicant Organization's Most Recent 990. If 990 is not available, upload applicant ☐ 1st Page of Applicant Organization's Most Recent 990. If 990 is not available, upload applicant							

# **QUESTIONS**

If you should have any questions regarding this form or TFEC grant opportunities, contact Jennifer Strechay, Program Officer for Community Investment, at <a href="mailto:jstrechay@tfec.org">jstrechay@tfec.org</a> or 717-236-5040.

organization's most recent audit or financial statement to meet this requirement.