

Partners in Community Impact

Supporting organizations creating stronger communities for everyone.

BLACK HAWK COUNTY GRANTS – FALL 2021

SNAPSHOT		
Application Opens	July 10, 2021	This document provides the necessary details about this specific grant opportunity, including deadlines and eligibility requirements. For information about accessing the online grants management site, tips on grantwriting, and more, visit the Grantseeker Resources section of our website (www.cfneia.org). If you have any additional questions, please contact Program Director Tom Wickersham at 319-243-1356 or twickersham@cfneia.org .
Application Deadline	5:00pm on October 1, 2021	

What We Fund

The Community Foundation provides eligible agencies one-year discretionary grants on a competitive basis to improve life for residents of Black Hawk County, Iowa. Requests can be for operations, programming, materials, equipment, and capital projects. Areas of support are in the following program areas:



Arts
& Culture



Community
Betterment



Education
& Youth
Development



Environment
& Animal
Welfare



Health



Human
Service

Grant Amounts

While grants can range from \$5,000 to \$50,000 or more depending on the amount of funds available, the majority of our competitive grants range from \$7,000 to \$25,000. Applicants interested in applying for more than \$50,000 are encouraged to contact Program Director Tom Wickersham prior to applying (see **QUESTIONS** section below). As a reference, past grant award details are posted on the Community Foundation's website.

Eligibility to Apply

Organizations must provide benefits to the people of Black Hawk County **and** must meet the following criteria in order to apply for a grant:

- Be classified as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization or be a government entity. Tax-exempt organizations classified as *other* than 501(c)(3) are also eligible *if and only if* the project is deemed charitable; please contact our office to discuss the project's eligibility prior to submitting a proposal.
- Be current with all state and federal reporting requirements.
- Must not have any past due grant reports for previous CFNEIA grants.

For groups, projects, or initiatives that do not meet the above eligibility requirements, the Community Foundation will consider projects submitted through a fiscal sponsor. Fiscal sponsors must be classified as a 501(c)(3) or a

government entity. The Community Foundation prefers that the fiscal sponsor's mission closely align with the sponsored project.

It is suggested that organizations that are applying for the first time (or the first time in a number of years) contact Program Director Tom Wickersham (see **QUESTIONS** section below for contact information) to explore the appropriateness of requests and for any further guidance.

Restrictions and Application Frequency

In addition to the eligibility requirements, the following restrictions also apply:

- Requests should be for one year only.
- Requests should be a minimum of \$5,000.
- With some exemptions, organizations are limited to one application*. Applicants may also submit up to one additional proposal as a fiscal sponsor.
- Grants will not be made to an organization* in consecutive grant cycles. For example, if an organization receives a grant in the fall cycle, it is not eligible to apply in the following spring cycle.
- Organizations with a separate supporting, eligible organization (like a "friends of" or a foundation) can apply through either the organization or through its supporting organization, but not both. The Foundation encourages applications to be submitted through the supporting organization.
- Public and private schools and school districts are eligible, however requests for capital improvements, salaries, technology, or equipment are not eligible.
- The Foundation will not support requests for funds that are re-granted or redistributed by the applicant.
- The Foundation will consider requests for capital campaigns but will not provide multiple grants (in subsequent years) for the same campaign.
- Inherently religious activities such as religious worship, instruction, or proselytization or activities that promote specific religious doctrine are not eligible.
- Requests for partisan political or lobbying activities are not eligible.
- Requests for debt reduction/elimination are not eligible.
- Operational requests from other foundations are not eligible.
- **Late, incomplete, or hard copy applications will not be considered.** Incomplete applications are those that are in DRAFT mode at the time of the application deadline.

**Organizations that are exempt from these restrictions are the Cedar Falls School District, the City of Cedar Falls, the City of Waterloo, Hawkeye Community College, University of Northern Iowa, and the Waterloo Community School District.*

Funding Preferences and Priorities

After first considering how strongly a proposal fits the Community Foundation's strategic initiatives and aligns with the core values, the committee evaluates every grant request according to the following criteria:

- Soundness of the organization's fiscal, strategic, governance, and program delivery practices.
- Degree to which the project addresses community need.
- Use of evaluation to assess progress towards goals.
- Level of collaboration and being part of a broader approach to improving the lives of community members.

In addition, the Community Foundation prefers to fund projects that:

- Are **QUALITY** – Is this feasible and consistent with the latest knowledge of what works?
- **LEVERAGE** additional support – Does this generate support, particularly from outside sources?
- Make long-term **IMPACT** – Will this lead to new solutions for the community?
- Are **SUSTAINABLE** – Will this continue without annual grant support from the Community Foundation?
- Address **INEQUALITY** – Will this project proactively address our community's diversity challenges?
- Grow **LEADERSHIP** – Does this help expand volunteer leadership skills and knowledge in our community?
- Build **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY** – Will this strengthen the foundation or engine of the organization?
- Align with our other **STRATEGIC PRIORITIES** – Child care, art and culture, and workforce readiness.

The Grant Selection Committee

A Distribution Committee, composed of Community Foundation board members and community volunteers from throughout Black Hawk County, is charged with making funding recommendations to the board of directors. The Committee carefully reviews and considers all eligible applications based on the guidelines stated herein. Members of the 2020 Distribution Committee are:

Jack Aschenbrenner
Stacie Brass
Joyce Coil
Ken Cutts
Kaye Englin

Susan Entriken
Andrew Finnegan
Sharina Sallis
Jeff Seamans
Halkeno Tura

Eashaan Vajpeyi
Sherman Wise
ReShonda Young

How to Apply

Applicants interested in seeking grants from the Community Foundation should fully review these grant guidelines prior to starting an application to ensure all eligibility requirements are met. Applications must be submitted through the foundation's online grant management system, which can be located in the grants section of www.cfneia.org. Also located on the website are helpful resources for logging in and navigating the online grants system.

Important Dates

- **The application deadline is 5:00pm on October 1, 2021.** Foundation staff will be on hand to provide technical assistance through 5:00pm on the day of the deadline. (To contact us, see **QUESTIONS** section below).
- All applicants will be notified of the results of the grant decisions in mid-December.
- Grant awards will be presented at an awards ceremony at 10am on Wednesday, January 12, 2022.
- For funded proposals, a final report will be due on January 31, 2023.

Conditions

Awarded applicants are required to:

- Sign a Terms of Grant agreement which clarifies legal parameters for use of the grant.
- Submit a Grant Report to show the results of the project and to show that all the funds have been spent as intended. (If the project takes longer to complete, the Community Foundation will consider a request to extend the Grant Report deadline.)

Questions?

With specific questions on submission procedures or eligibility, organizations are advised to contact Program Director Tom Wickersham at 319-243-1356 or twickersham@cfneia.org.