Partners in Community Impact
Supporting organizations creating stronger communities for everyone.

2020 GRANT GUIDELINES

SNAPSHOT	
Application opens: November 1, 2019	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 Manager Dotti Thompson at 319-243-1358 or dthompson@cfneia.org.
Application deadline: January 15, 2020	

About the Kossuth County Community Foundation

The Kossuth County Community Foundation (KCCF), an affiliate of the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa, is created by and for the people of Kossuth County. The Community Foundation's main goals are to support Kossuth County and to attract additional funds by assisting donors in creating lasting legacies through a variety of giving options within Kossuth County.

What We Fund

The Kossuth County Community Foundation provides grants to improve life in Kossuth County, Iowa. We want to help develop communities that people want to live in, as well as to benefit rural areas of the county. Areas of Foundation giving are:

art & culture   community betterment   education   environment   health   historic preservation   human service

Within these program areas, the KCCF will prioritize funding for projects that are multi-generational, engage individuals on multiple levels, provide essential services to youth, and/or provide critical emergency response within our communities.

Eligibility to Apply

Organizations must provide benefits to the people of the Kossuth 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, such as filing of 990 forms.
- Must not have any outstanding grant reports for previous Kossuth Community Foundation grants.

For groups, projects, or initiatives that do not meet the above eligibility requirements, the Community Foundation will consider your requests if submitted through a fiscal sponsor. Fiscal sponsors must be classified as a 501(c)(3) or a government entity. The Foundation prefers that the fiscal sponsor's mission closely align with the sponsored project. **Fiscal Sponsors will be legally and financially responsible for any grant funds that are awarded by the Kossuth County Community Foundation.**

Restrictions

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

- **One application per organization** with the exemption of Government Entities and Fiscal Sponsors. **H**owever, fiscal sponsors may submit only one application per sponsored organization and government entities may submit only one application per department.
- **Grant request *minimum* is $1,000. Request under $1,000 will not be considered.**
- The following organizations are eligible for specific projects only:
  - Schools – for community-wide projects (such as repair to a track that provides community access)
  - Churches – for projects that provide community services/activities
  - Economic development organizations - for marketing/education projects that benefits the whole community, not just member businesses
  - Service clubs and veterans organization (with eligible tax exempt status) - for charitable community projects
- The KCCF will not support requests for the following:
  - political activity or lobbying
  - fundraising activities
  - debt repayment
  - funds that will be re-granted by the applicant
  - endowment contributions
  - project expenses incurred prior to grant notifications.
- For profit businesses and individuals are not eligible.
- Inherently religious activities such as religious worship, instruction, or proselytization or activities that promote specific religious doctrine are not eligible.

Review Criteria

Applications will be reviewed and scored on the following elements:

- **Organization** – The overall health of the organization and how the application reflects the organization's capability for completing the project.
- **Feasibility** – The probability the project will be successful, including the organization's level of staff/volunteers and collaboration with community partners.
- **Community Need and Outcomes** – The need for the project and how the proposed outcomes impact the community/county.
- **Project Budget** – The details of the budget and the ability to secure and/or leverage other funding sources, including in-kind services

Funding Priorities

• The extent to which the proposal addresses a community need, demonstrates broad-based community support, and provides benefits to the community-at-large.
• The level of support or leveraged funding from other sources.
• Maximization of community resources through cooperation and collaboration with other organizations in the community and the elimination of redundant services, programs, or projects.
• The capacity of the applicant's organization and staff to achieve the desired result and/or projects that focus on the growth of the organization.
• The sustainability of the proposed project.

Grant Selection Process

Committee members of the Kossuth County Community Foundation review and evaluate submitted applications before making final funding recommendations. The 2020 Governing Committee:

Patrick Berte	Eric Goodman	Crysti Neuman
Trudy Blome	Don Hansen	Greg Stewart
Louis Bormann	David Harner	Kelly Tigges
Jonathan Chambers	Carol Heesch	
Shannon Goche	Karen Knapp	

How to Apply

Applicants interested in seeking grants from the Kossuth County Community Foundation should fully review these grant guidelines prior to submitting an application to ensure all eligibility requirements are met. Applications must be submitted through the foundation's online grant management system. Visit **www.kossuthccf.org** to access the online grant system, and to find additional resources for grant seekers.

It is suggested that applicants, in particular first-time applicants, contact Program Manager Dotti Thompson to explore the appropriateness of requests and for any further guidance.

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.

Important Dates

- **Applications must be submitted by 11:59pm on January 15, 2020.**
- All applicants will be notified of the results of the grant process by mid-March 2020.
- Grant awards will be presented at a ceremony in April 2020.
- Grant reports, for successful proposals, are due October 31, 2020.

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

Applicants are encouraged to contact our administrative office at 319-243-1358 or dthompson@cfneia.org with specific questions about the application process or eligibility requirements.