

# Partners in Community Impact

Supporting organizations creating stronger communities for everyone.

# Grant Guidelines

## GRUNDY COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANTS - 2021

| SNAPSHOT                    |                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>APPLICATION OPENS</b>    | <b>OCTOBER 15, 2020</b>  | 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 ( <a href="http://www.cfneia.org">www.cfneia.org</a> ). If you have any additional questions, please contact Program Manager Dotti Thompson at 319-243-1358 or <a href="mailto:dthompson@cfneia.org">dthompson@cfneia.org</a> . |
| <b>APPLICATION DEADLINE</b> | <b>DECEMBER 31, 2020</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

### About the Grundy County Community Foundation

The Grundy County Community Foundation is an affiliate of the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa, created by and for the people of Grundy County for the purpose of generating both endowed and unrestricted funds to support charitable capital projects, activities, services, programs, and organizations that will improve the quality of life for the residents of Grundy County, Iowa.

### What We Support

The Grundy County Community Foundation provides grants to improve life in Grundy 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

### Eligibility to Apply

Organizations must provide benefits to the people of the Grundy 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 past due grant reports for previous Grundy County 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 Grundy County Community Foundation.

It is suggested that applicants, in particular first-time applicants, contact Program Manager Dotti Thompson (319-243-1358 or [dthompson@cfneia.org](mailto:dthompson@cfneia.org)) to explore the appropriateness of requests and for any further guidance.

## Restrictions

- One application per organization with the exemption of Government Entities and Fiscal Sponsors; **however, fiscal sponsors may submit only one application per sponsored organization. Government entities may submit only one application per department.** Schools are considered government entities for grant purposes.
- The following organizations are eligible for specific projects only:
  - 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.
- Grant request minimum is \$1,000.
- **Requests for debt repayment and/or pass through funds (funds to be paid to another entity) are not eligible.**
- Inherently religious activities such as religious worship, instruction, or proselytization or activities that promote specific religious doctrine are not eligible.
- Funding requests should be for the actual cost of the project, not including trainings and salaries.
- **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.

## 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 Grundy County Community Foundation review and evaluate submitted applications before making final funding recommendations. The 2021 Governing Committee:

|                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| Marcia Beving  | Jeanine Marts |
| Jessica Eilers | Brandi Morris |
| Jeffrey Frank  | Angie Thesing |
| Lexie Hach     | Mike Williams |
| Jen Jensen     |               |

## How to Apply

Applicants interested in seeking grants from the Grundy 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.grundyccf.org](http://www.grundyccf.org) to access the online grant system, and to find additional resources for grant seekers.

## Important Dates

- **The grant application deadline is 11:59pm on December 31, 2020.**
- All applicants will be notified of the results of the grant process in mid-March 2021.
- Grant awards will be presented during a ceremony in April 2021. *Grantees (along with staff & board members) are encouraged to attend this ceremony to be recognized.*
- Grant reports, for successful proposals, are due April 30, 2022.

## Grant 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

For eligibility and application questions, contact Dotti Thompson at our administrative office at 319-243-1358 or [dthompson@cfneia.org](mailto:dthompson@cfneia.org).