



200 Medical Center Drive, Springfield, Ohio 45504
www.community-health-foundation.org

Responsive Grant Guidelines 2027-2028

Purpose

The mission of Community Health Foundation (CHF) is to preserve reproductive services, to promote health and wellness, and to advocate for quality healthcare through grant making and education in Clark and Champaign counties, Ohio. CHF awards Responsive Grants annually for programs that align with our mission.

Grant-Seeker Eligibility

To be eligible for a grant from Community Health Foundation, you must meet **all** the following criteria.

- Nonprofit organization exempt from Federal income taxes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or a government unit, including public schools and municipalities. If you do not have 501(c)(3) status, you may enter into an agreement with a qualified nonprofit that will act as your fiscal sponsor.
- Organizations must have an active governing board and conduct business without discrimination based on race, religion, gender, age, disability, or national origin.
- Funded activities must serve residents of Clark and/or Champaign counties in Ohio.
- In order to receive grant funds, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations must have current Charitable Registration status with the Ohio Attorney General's office (updated annually), Active status with the Ohio Secretary of State (renewed every 5 years), and current status with IRS filing requirements (updated annually). Organizations can check their status on these offices' websites.

Types of Funding

- **Program grants** support new or continuing programs, or expansion of successful ongoing programs.
- **Project grants** are for short-term activities, usually lasting less than one year.
- **Operating support** contributes to an organization's day-to-day, ongoing expenses such as salaries, utilities, office supplies, etc. These grants are typically reserved for organizations that have a strong overall mission fit and shared geographic focus with CHF.
- **Capital support** involves permanent improvements such as building, infrastructure (i.e., wiring, roofing), fixtures or equipment that support a specific program or project.

We Do Not Fund

- Awards to individuals, including fellowships, scholarships, travel, study, research, or camp fees;
- Support for individual political candidates and/or lobbying efforts;
- Annual campaigns or dues;
- Sectarian worship, instruction, or proselytizing;
- Fraternal, political, labor, and athletic organizations;
- School extra-curricular or co-curricular projects, such as school bands or sports teams;
- Debt retirements, deficit financing, annual fund drives, or fundraising activities;
- Returning applicants who did not complete their previous grant reporting requirements;
- Endowment funds held at foundations.

Community Health Foundation does not generally award grant requests to other foundations with endowments.

Health Priorities

Community Health Foundation supports the objectives of the most recent Community Health Improvement Plans for Champaign and Clark County Health Departments. These plans are publicly available to read and are linked on the CHF website Grants page. Whenever possible, CHF will align our funding with the following priorities. Examples of possible aligned outcomes are provided.

- **Healthy Living / Chronic Disease Prevention & Management:** Improved healthy eating or active living opportunities; reduced risk factors for cancer, heart disease, diabetes, lower respiratory disease, tobacco use, and more.
- **Maternal and Infant Health:** Reduced risk factors for preterm births; more patients receiving prenatal care; reduced rates of infant mortality; improved maternal health and wellbeing.
- **Mental Health:** Higher rates of mental wellbeing; reduced rates of suicide or suicide attempts; reduction in substance use rates and overall overdoses; reduction in youth screen time; improved communication skills or relationship skills.
- **Sexual Health:** Reduced rates of sexually transmitted infections; improved treatment access for STIs; reduced rates of teen pregnancies. Any proposed reproductive health education programs must be evidence-based and comprehensive.
- **Community Stability:** Reduced homelessness risk factors; reduced gun violence; increased felt safety for youth; improved housing conditions.

Cross-Cutting Factors: *Cross-cutting factors impact all priority areas and move our community closer to health equity. Identified cross-cutting factors in our community include:*

- **Socioeconomic Stability:** Improved socioeconomic stability or factors that improve socioeconomic stability for individuals, families, and children and youth
- **Trauma:** Reduced risk factors for Adverse Childhood Experiences, improved access to care for those impacted by trauma, reduced impacts of trauma
- **Access to care:** Improved ability to access health resources, healthcare, and health information
- **Transportation:** Improved access to transportation for access to employment, healthcare, school, and other essential services

Closing Health Gaps

Community Health Foundation recognizes health disparities in our community and seeks to work collaboratively to improve the health and wellness of everyone in our community.

CHF draws on the skills, talents, and perspectives of a broad and diverse range of people to improve the health and wellness of the entire community. Diverse viewpoints drawn from different life experiences and cultural backgrounds our strengthen decision-making and organizational effectiveness in the community.

Awareness of how systemic inequities have affected our communities deepens CHF's impact, relevance, and advancement of its mission. CHF works toward creating a healthy community where everyone is valued, regardless of race, age, gender, religion, income, sexual orientation, or abilities. By recognizing

health inequities and social injustices, resources can be targeted to decrease disparities and to improve health outcomes for all people in our community..

CHF works to build a culture of trust, civility, and respect and to value individual perspectives, identity, and life experiences. Our board culture welcomes and celebrates differences and ensures all board members are engaged and invested, sharing power and responsibility for Community Health Foundation's mission and the board's work

We prioritize grant applications that describe specific actions your organization is taking, or plans to take, to address health disparities in our community.

Best Practices and Measurable Outcomes

CHF is interested in programs that are evidence-based and have a history of success with the population being served. Successful grant applicants will be able to describe not just their activities, but the measurable change those activities achieve. **Measurable outcomes typically have a projected numeric value (percent, increase, count).** For example:

- Participating children who improve their reading scores, grades, or health behaviors
- Participating families who improve their communication skills
- Participants who indicate that a program was beneficial to them, or helped them reduce a specific risk factor or build a specific protective factor for physical or mental health
- Individuals who complete a screening or a preventive health behavior

Measurable outcomes can vary widely based on the program's goals and can be collected in different ways, such as surveys (written or verbal), assessments given by staff or volunteers, participation records, etc. Measurable outcomes help to demonstrate that funded programs are contributing to a healthier community. You are welcome, but not required, to attach any research that demonstrates the link between your type of program and improved health outcomes.

Budget Template

You are welcome to upload your program/project budget as a PDF in any template you already have. You are also welcome to use CHF's budget template if it works better for you. The template can be downloaded on our Grants page, or you can find a link in the Budget section of the application. **Your submitted budget should be for the proposed program only, not a full organizational budget.** Please include **both expected revenue and expense** in your program budget.

Financial

In most cases, CHF prefers not to be the only funder for a project. In the Financial section of the application, please provide information about other funding sources, including

- Other expected funding sources;
- An estimate of the share of the cost your organization is providing.

Grant Process Timeline

- **Grant Information Sessions** – Please see the [CHF Grants page](#) to find updated Grant Information Session times, locations, and registration link. First-time grant applicants are encouraged to attend a Grant Information Session. Returning applicants are welcome to attend if interested.
- **Grant application deadline** – All grant applications must be complete and submitted by Friday, February 19, 5:00pm. **There are no exceptions to the grant deadline.**
- **Award letters with full grant amounts** are mailed to selected applicants no later than mid-May.
- **Mid-year and final reports** are due as indicated in the grant award letter.

Responsive Grant Requests of \$5,000 or Less

Organizations seeking \$5,000 or less for 2027-28 may complete a shortened Responsive Grant application. See the [Community Health Foundation Grants page](#) for the link to apply. Only one application for requests under \$5,000 is allowed per organization.

How to Apply

Complete the grant application through Smarter Select. You can find the link on the Community Health Foundation website [Grants page](#). You will be prompted to create or log into your account on Smarter Select. Your application will be saved each time you work on it. You can modify your application even after submitted, until the deadline. After the deadline, you will be able to view the application but not make changes.

It may be helpful to create a Word document or Google doc with your responses, and copy and paste responses into your application on Smarter Select, so that you have a working copy for next year.

Grant Review

The Foundation's Grant Committee includes CHF board members and community leaders. The Grant Committee reviews all grant applications and makes awards based on the amount of funding available, alignment with CHF's health priorities, and the impact of proposed activities on community health needs. The Committee may award grant amounts that partially fund the request.

To discuss your application, questions about the grant process, an idea for a proposal, technical problems, or the decision reached by the Grant Committee, please contact Grants and Program Manager Faith Bosland, at 937-523-7007 or fbosland@mercy.com.

**RESPONSIVE GRANT APPLICATIONS ARE DUE
BY 5:00 P.M. ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2027**