Responsive Grants Guidelines

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. Grants to area non-profit organizations help fulfill this mission. Responsive grants are awarded annually for programs that support health and wellbeing in the region.

Grant-Seeker Eligibility:
To be eligible for a grant from the Community Health Foundation, you must meet all of the following criteria.

- Be a 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.
- Have a governing board and conduct business without discrimination based on race, religion, gender, age, disability, or national origin.
- Programs and projects must serve residents of Clark and/or Champaign Counties in Ohio.

Types of Funding:
- **Program grants** support new programs, continuing programs, or expansion of successful on-going 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.
- **Capital support** is related to building improvements, infrastructure (i.e., wiring), fixtures or equipment for a specific program or project.

We Do Not Fund:
- Awards to individuals, including fellowships, scholarships, travel, study, research and 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 bands and school choral groups, drill teams, or color guards;
- Debt retirements, deficit financing, annual fund drives or fundraising activities;
- Returning applicants who did not complete their previous grant reporting requirements.
Community Health Foundation supports the objectives of the most recent community health assessments performed by Champaign and Clark County Health Districts. The 2019 assessments identify the following outcomes to improve the overall health status of our region.

**Desired Long-Term Outcomes:**

**Chronic Disease Prevention & Management.** Many existing programs promote health and wellness, providing support for all people to receive the full range of health services. The outcome of such programs will ultimately lead to: reduced cancer incidence; improved oral health; reduced rates of heart disease; reduced rates of diabetes; reduction in lower respiratory disease; and reduction in rates of addiction.

**Maternal/Infant Health and Sexual Health.** Inclusive and comprehensive approaches help people prepare for healthy births and parenting. The community benefits from such programs that contribute to long-term outcomes such as: fewer preterm births; more patients receiving prenatal care; reduced rates of sexually transmitted infections; and reduced rates of teen pregnancies.

**Mental Health and Substance Abuse.** When people in our community struggle with mental health and substance use disorders, the overall wellbeing of the area suffers. Programs that provide services in these areas will ultimately result in: reduced rates of suicide; and reduction in overall overdoses.

**Over-Arching Strategies:**

**Health Equity**: Health equity is defined as giving everyone a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible (Robert Wood Johnson). Health equity encompasses factors that, when addressed, decrease disparities. You will be asked to tell us how your organization is working towards being equitable, diverse and inclusive.

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

- **Social Determinants of Health** include access to affordable, safe and healthy housing; high-quality education; and improved economic structures such as income equality, employment opportunities and reduced poverty.
- **Access to Care** helps people get needed health services through transportation that is reliable and available to all; and sufficient health resources including dental care, mental health and primary care.
- **Health Behaviors and Prevention** includes promotion of physical activity; availability and knowledge of healthy food; reduction in tobacco use; and reducing health risks through prevention of injuries and addressing unsafe environments.

**Priority Areas:**

We seek programs that are evidence-based, are led by reputable organizations and have a history of success with the population being served. In order to attain the above long-term outcomes, CHF awards grants to projects and initiatives that support (but are not limited to) the following.
• **Healthy Living.** Promote physical activity, nutritious foods and changes to the environment that lead to better health outcomes for the overall community or specific populations. Activities may include:
  o Access to and promotion of **physical activity**.
  o Access to, promotion of and education about **nutritious food**.
  o **Environmental changes** that support **population health**, such as safe recreation areas and access to healthy foods.

• **Reproductive Health.** Promote responsible sexuality to help reduce sexually transmitted infections, unplanned pregnancies, teen births, premature birth and infant mortality. Suggested activities include:
  o Education about, promotion of and practices that lead to **healthy births**.
  o Education about **human sexuality** and **safe sexual practices**.
  o Programs that reduce unintended pregnancies.
  o Programs that reduce the incidence of sexually transmitted infections.

• **Mental/Emotional Health and Substance Abuse.** Provide support for treatment of mental health and addiction disorders and programs that contribute to prevention of substance use. Suggested activities include:
  o **Tobacco cessation** programs.
  o Prevention and treatment of **substance abuse**.
  o Education to enhance **understanding of mental and emotional health**.
  o Providing access to **mental health services**.
  o **Training** for families, teachers, first responders and others.
  o Activities that develop **relationship and interpersonal skills**.
  o Education and promotion to reduce interpersonal violence.

• **Safety Net Services.** Support for all populations to have access to a full range of health services. Suggested activities include:
  o Access to **primary health care**, including vision and oral health.
  o Prevention and management of **chronic diseases**, such as diabetes and heart disease.
  o **Financial assistance** for co-pays, deductibles, prescriptions, medical supplies.
  o Advocacy and education for **health care benefits**.
  o **Improvements in social factors** that contribute to quality of life for people in under-resourced areas. Examples include transportation options, public safety and other disparities.

**Financial**

In most cases, CHF does not wish to be the only funder for a project. In the Financial section of the application, you are asked to provide information about other funding sources, including
  • Other funders and amounts of secured funds and pending applications.
  • An estimate of the share of the cost your organization is subsidizing;
  • In-kind commitments from other sources;

**Grant Process**

All grant-seekers should carefully review these grant-making guidelines to determine if their organization is eligible for funding and if their grant request meets the Foundation’s funding priorities. CHF provides grant information sessions at the beginning of the grant cycle. First-time
applicants are encouraged to attend one of these sessions, but it is not a requirement. All grant applications must be complete and received by the grant application deadline. **There are no exceptions to the grant deadline.** Notification of awards is provided in writing. Sign and return one copy of grant agreements in order to receive the disbursement. Awards are disbursed in full in mid-June. The funding year starts on July 1st and ends on June 30th.

**Timeline for funding year beginning July 1st and ending on June 30th:**
- **Grant-Seeker Information Sessions** – November and December (please check our website for dates and times).
- **Grant application deadline** – All applications must be received by 5:00pm EST on the stated deadline (please check website).
- **Award letters and grant agreements** are mailed to selected applicants no later than mid-May.
- **Award disbursements** will be made in mid-June.
- **Mid-year and final reports** are due as indicated on the grant agreement

**How To Apply**
Complete the grant application from the link on the Community Health Foundation website: [www.community-health-foundation.org](http://www.community-health-foundation.org). Your application will be saved each time you access it. After the deadline, you will be able to view the application but not make changes. If you are unable to complete the application on-line, contact Program Coordinator Joan Elder at [JElder@mercy.com](mailto:JElder@mercy.com) or 937-523-7007 to make other arrangements.

**Grant Review**
The Foundation’s Grant Committee includes CHF board members and community leaders and partners. The Grant Committee reviews all grant applications and makes awards based on the amount of funding available and the ability of the proposed activities to address community health needs as described in these Guidelines. The Committee may award grant amounts that partially or fully fund the request.

Community Health Foundation does not provide written feedback to grant writers. To discuss your application or the decision reached by the Grant Committee, please contact Program Coordinator, Joan Elder.

**GRANT APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY 5:00 P.M. ON JANUARY 29, 2021**

For further information, please call Joan Elder, Program Coordinator, 937-523-7007, or e-mail [JElder@mercy.com](mailto:JElder@mercy.com).