

Fayette County Foundation Grant Policy

The Fayette County Foundation's mission is to promote positive and sustainable change in our community by developing assets that will be available in perpetuity to energize and nourish endeavors that seek to impact:

- Community Betterment
 - Arts and cultural development
 - Community beautification, improvement, and enhancement projects
 - Economic development efforts
- Health & Human Services
 - Public Safety
 - Elderly services
 - Children and youth services
 - Family services
- Education
 - Community education on relevant issues
 - Educational opportunities for local charities
 - Collaborative school projects/programs
 - Youth programs

Grants will be awarded to serve the citizens of Fayette County now and in the future. Our grant policy and application are designed to meet the Fayette County Foundation's overall mission.

Donors Wishes

Unrestricted gifts will always be welcome, because they enhance the ability of the Foundation to respond to changing community needs through grants. The income from such gifts will provide the funds for which Fayette County Foundation trustees will have distributive discretion.

Foremost in the consideration of Foundation fund disbursements will be the wishes of donors, subject to any legal restrictions that may be imposed.

For Donor Advised Funds with advisory committees, the Foundation board maintains final authority on all committee recommendations. Advisory committees shall be made up of the donor or donor's representative, and members of the Foundation board. The Foundation members will have the majority of the votes on the committee.

Tax Status

The Fayette County Foundation has been approved as a 501(c)(3) publicly supported community foundation by the Internal Revenue Service and all gifts and bequests to the Foundation are tax deductible. The Foundation appreciates that our federal government recognizes gifts to charitable, educational, scientific and cultural organizations which have contributed significantly to the welfare of our nation, and that our laws are designed to encourage such giving.

The Foundation will be guided by the IRS regulations in the conduct of its grant procedures as well as in the administration of its general affairs. Grants can only be awarded to nonprofit organizations.

The Foundation will normally not consider grants from unrestricted funds for the following purposes:

1. Operating deficits
2. Operating Support (Salaries)
3. Annual fund campaigns

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4. Propaganda, political or otherwise, attempting to influence litigation or intervene in any political affairs or campaigns on behalf of any candidate for public office so as to endanger the charitable nature of the community trust
5. Public school services required by state law
6. Standard instructional or regular operation costs of non-public schools
7. Repeat funding of projects previously supported by the Foundation
8. Purchase a house or facility
9. Individuals
10. Travel purposes
11. For profit organizations
12. Any purpose that is not in conformity with the constraints placed upon the Foundation by the IRS
13. Sponsorship of events / pass through funding / offsetting costs of memberships or activities
14. Programs or projects that do not support the current mission of the Foundation
15. Applicants without a physical office located within Fayette County

Eligibility

To be eligible to receive funding from the Fayette County Foundation a letter of intent must be submitted in accordance with announced deadlines and followed by a completed grant application by the appropriate grant deadline. All grantseekers must have prior governing board approval for the project seeking funding. The approval of signed minutes and a signed letter from governing board must be available to the Fayette County Foundation.

i.e. A project in the park will need prior approval from the City of Connersville – Parks Department showing support and approval of the project.

A project in a school will need prior approval from the Fayette County School Board showing support and approval of the project.

Faith-based organizations may apply as long as the project does not mandate participation in a religious activity as a condition for receiving services.

In the case of an organization seeking funds to help individuals in a recovery process, the community organization must be a certified site or in partnership with a certified site by the Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction.

The Fayette County Foundation will not indulge in discrimination as to race, color, creed, age, sex, religion, or national origin in the consideration of grant requests.

The Fayette County Foundation belongs to the Fayette County community. Insofar as possible, its relationship with the community shall be, constructive, supportive and harmonious. Unrestricted Endowment grant distributions will only be granted within Fayette County.

The Fayette County Foundation Board of Directors will vote to select grants that will make the most impact from endowment distribution. Their final decision will reflect the grant policy.

Legal requirements forbid staff, trustees, directors, committee members and their families from profiting financially from any philanthropic grant. All persons actively connected with the Foundation will consistently strive to avoid self-interest in the processing and disposition of grant request.

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Projects must have public access for all people.

Repeat funding *for the same project* may be considered two years after the initial project on a case by case basis.

Simplicity of Application

It is our aim to keep the grant application procedures as simple and straightforward as possible.

Applications, which do not contain all of the requested information, may not be considered. If information requested is not available an explanation as to why is required. To facilitate the preparation of complete grant applications, grantseekers are encouraged to utilize the Fayette County Foundation staff for assistance. The Foundation usually will offer two competitive grant cycles each year. Completed grant applications must be submitted by announced deadlines to be considered.

It is the aim of the Foundation to promptly acknowledge all grant applications. If an application does not conform to the guidelines established by the Fayette County Foundation, the Foundation will notify the grantseeker promptly to explain the deficiency. All applicants will be notified of the decision by the Foundation via email.

Any change in status of the organization must be immediately reported to the Foundation office. Grants will be approved only by a majority favorable vote by the Foundation at a regular or called meeting. Only at the discretion of the Foundation may the terms of the grant be altered, amended or changed. On rare occasions the Foundation may consider a grant request at a time other than the normal established grant cycles. These exceptions would need to be for an extraordinary need in the community and are solely at the discretion of the Foundation.

Grantseeker Steps to Follow

1. Review the FCF website at www.fayettefoundation.com/grants to determine if your organization and project meet the criteria of the Foundation.
2. The Foundation will administer two grant cycles each year: spring and fall. Programming and project applications will be considered separately upon internal review by the Grant Committee using a separate score card. Programming and project applications will be continue to be separate applications and distributed accordingly by the Program Officer after review of the applicant's Letter of Intent.
3. Submit a letter of intent (LOI) via email to the Fayette County Foundation. Hard copies will not be accepted. Completed letter of intent must be in accordance with announced grant cycles and deadlines. LOI must all requested information as per the current LOI instructions.

Once the letter of intent is received and reviewed, a grant application may be sent to the organization if it is determined the organization would be eligible to apply for a grant.

Applications for projects must have multiple *quotes* (local vendors if possible) for the proposed project. Upon completion of the project, a financial report, with receipts, will be given to the Foundation.

4. To facilitate the preparation of a grant application, grantseekers are encouraged to utilize the Fayette County Foundation staff for assistance.

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5. Completed grant application must be received by the Foundation by announced deadlines to be considered for funding.
6. The completed application will be referred to the Fayette County Foundation Grantmaking Committee for their review and recommendation to the Fayette County Foundation Board of Directors. Once the application is received, it becomes the property of the Foundation to use for future publications.