

Through collaborations, partnerships, and grantmaking, Aspen Community Foundation (ACF) addresses the diverse and changing needs of the region. ACF's Community Grantmaking provides support to nonprofit organizations serving children and families from Aspen to Parachute and expanding their opportunities to live healthy and independent lives.

Funding is made possible by annual contributions from donors wishing to support a pooled grantmaking fund. Historically, ACF has been able to raise and award between \$400,000 and \$600,000 each year to 35-40 nonprofit organizations.

Community Grantmaking is an annual competitive process that provides general operating and programmatic grants. ACF prioritizes nonprofits working in the areas of early childhood education, youth development, education and family support. A secondary priority are nonprofits providing essential human services such as food, shelter, safety and healthcare.

CRITERIA

Applications for Community Grantmaking funding are evaluated using following criteria:

- A. Use of **best practices** or evidence-based interventions
- B. Demonstration of **positive outcomes** for clients and the community
- C. Commitment to serving **under-resourced people and/or communities**
- D. Willingness to address the region's **demand for services**
- E. **Scale or scope** of the organization's reach into the community
- F. **Depth of contact** with those served
- G. **Leadership** strength and capacity
- H. **Financial health** including efficiency, solvency and sustainability
- I. **Collaboration** to avoid duplication and to improve community outcomes
- J. Necessity of ACF funding

LIMITATIONS

1. Aspen Community Foundation support is generally limited to nonprofit organizations located in, and whose work primarily serves, the residents of Pitkin and Garfield counties and portions of Eagle County in the Roaring Fork Valley of Colorado.
2. Applicants must be tax exempt and in good standing under the provision of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
3. Although each proposal is reviewed separately, grants are generally not considered for:
 - Organizations outside of ACF's service area
 - Projects which have been completed prior to allocation decisions
 - Deficits, retirement of debt, or endowments
 - Religious purposes
 - Political campaigns
 - Medical research or hospital equipment
 - Conduit organizations (organizations or events that pass funds to other organizations)

- Individual schools/classrooms, departments/programs of universities or colleges or education foundations/organizations that have not coordinated the request with their central school district/university administration or fundraising arm
 - Organizations, projects or programs in operation for less than one year
 - Organizations in leadership transition
 - Organizations primarily supported by tax-derived funding unless funding supports a new program that is outside of the organization's operating budget
4. Aspen Community Foundation does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, sexual preference or identity, physical circumstances, or national origin. Applicants must hold and demonstrate similar standards.
 5. Only one Community Grantmaking application per organization will be accepted each year.
 6. Past funding from ACF does not guarantee funding for future years.

PROCESS

ACF's Community Grantmaking is a two-stage process and is entirely electronic. The application for funding and all supporting documents must be submitted via ACF's online grant platform. Specific application deadlines are listed on the website.

1. Each organization seeking funding should first determine after careful review of these guidelines whether its proposal meets the criteria and priorities of ACF.
2. If the organization meets these guidelines, begin the application process by completing the Qualifying Application.
3. Qualified applicants will be invited to submit a Full Application for Funding including supporting documents such as budgets, board and staff lists, Form 990s, etc.
4. ACF staff may elect at any time to schedule a meeting with the organization's executive director and/or board chair to discuss the proposal or to request additional or clarifying information.
5. Grant recommendations are considered by ACF's Board of Directors in the fall with funding decisions announced shortly thereafter.

ADMINISTRATION

1. If the contact person becomes unavailable after application submission, please notify ACF of a new contact and phone number. Applications will not be considered if ACF staff cannot reach the contact person. Final approval of grants is the sole responsibility of ACF's Board of Directors. The Board requests that individual members not be lobbied.
3. Organizations receiving funding will be required to sign an agreement setting forth the grant's terms and conditions. The agreement will include marketing and reporting requirements, limitations on the grant funds, disposition of unused funds and other conditions.