



COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT GRANT GUIDELINES

The Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin matches donated resources with innovative ideas from nonprofit organizations that meet community needs. They do that through a quarterly application review and Community Enhancement Grant distribution process.

Applications are evaluated with consideration to the policies, funding objectives, and mission of the Community Foundation.

What We Look For

In awarding Community Enhancement Grants, our Distributions Committee favors innovative proposals that:

- Enhance the *vibrancy and livability* of the greater Wausau area and Marathon County.
- Apply the Community Foundation's resources where they will be used wisely to make a long-term, *tangible* difference in meeting a specific community need.
- Demonstrate community impact and outreach.
- Reduce service duplication and promote agency collaboration.

We attempt to understand both the specific objectives of a request and the long-term benefits that will be derived by the community if the project is funded. Consideration is given primarily to those organizations that are tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code.

It is highly recommended that applicants discuss their idea with Foundation staff prior to submitting a complete application. Ask for Sue Nelson, the program officer, at 715.845.9555.

We Do Not Generally Fund

- Annual campaigns
- Operating expenses or losses
- Debt retirement
- Endowments
- Direct support of individuals
- Lobbying
- Sectarian causes

Nondiscrimination Policy

The Community Foundation only considers applications from organizations that do not discriminate on the basis of race, ancestry, color, age, familial status, handicap, religion, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, lawful sources of income, national origin, or any other discriminatory practice prohibited by state or federal law. Applicants will be asked to provide their organization's nondiscrimination policy.

500 First Street Suite 2600
Wausau, WI 54403

Office:

T: 715.845.9555

E: info@cfoncw.org



www.cfoncw.org



Application Procedure

The Foundation utilizes an online grant management system to accept applications electronically, review the applications, track the recipient's progress, and accept final reports.

The Online Grant Management site can be accessed by visiting the Community Foundation's website at www.cfoncw.org; clicking on the "Grants & Scholarships" dropdown; then clicking "Community Grants". Or, you can access the site directly at: www.grantinterface.com/cfoncw/Common/LogOn.aspx. You will be asked to create an account or provide a previously used email address and password to access the application information. Choose the **Community Enhancement Grant** application from the menu. Foundation staff is available during business hours to answer any questions regarding this process. Do not hesitate to call if you are in need of assistance.

Application Deadline

Completed applications must be submitted electronically by 5 p.m. on the first working day of **March, June, September,** and/or **December** to be reviewed within that grant cycle. Make sure to click the "submit" button on the bottom of the page when you have completed your proposal.

Application Review and Notification

Our Distributions Committee, appointed for their broad knowledge of community issues, reviews proposals several weeks after the application deadline. Foundation staff will occasionally contact the applicant for specific information regarding their proposal prior to the committee meeting. In some cases, a site visit is requested. The board of directors awards grants based upon the Distribution Committee's recommendations. Applicants are generally notified by program staff regarding the status of their application within 30 days of the application deadline.

Follow Up Requirements

As the grant agreement letter outlines, the Community Foundation requires recognition of its grants. If funded, it is required that the recipient includes the following statement in all material related to their project: **"Support for this project was provided through the «Name of Fund» of the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin."** The Foundation's logo will be provided and should be used where appropriate. Recipients are also required to document and submit photographs, which may be used in Foundation publications or marketing materials.

Please note that the final report is due within 30 days of project completion or two years from the award date, whichever comes first. No further requests for funding will be considered if there are overdue final reports in the system.

Where Do Community Enhancement Funds Come From?

The **Wausau-Marathon County Fund** is supported by many generous donors. We rely on donations to grow the endowment that provides grants to help meet the ever-changing needs of our area. A gift given directly or through a will or other estate planning strategy becomes a permanent community funding resource through the Wausau-Marathon County Fund.

Community Enhancement Grants are also awarded at the discretion, and with the approval, of our board of directors after review by our Distributions Committee utilizing the same application process and selection criteria for the following Community Enhancement Funds:

Nils Folke Jr. & Jean B. Becker Legacy Fund
Edward & Lois Drott Legacy Fund
George L. Geisler Trust Fund
James & Susan Lundberg Fund
Caroline S. Mark Legacy Fund

NCHPP Fund
Orville E. & Geraldine L. Peterson Family Fund
Marvin & Ruth (Rudie) Schuette Fund
Clarion G. & Irene B. Sternberg Fund

In addition, the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin administers and awards grants from over 380 various funds. With the principal carefully invested, these funds continue to grow and earnings are distributed in the form of grants, allowing the flexibility to address the changing needs of our area, and providing funding for innovative projects and programs that enrich our community now and for generations to come.

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