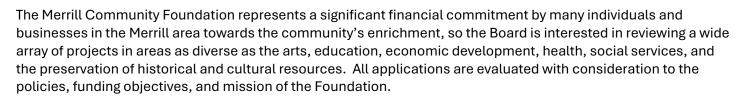# APPLICATION PROCEDURE AND GUIDELINES

The Merrill Community Foundation meets quarterly to conduct business and review grant proposals from nonprofit organizations wishing to join in fulfilling its mission of supporting local organizations that seek to enrich the Merrill area community now and into the future.

The Merrill Community Foundation represents a significant financial commitment by many individuals and businesses in the Merrill area towards the community's enrichment, so the Board is interested in reviewing a wide array of projects in areas as diverse as the arts, education, economic development, health, social services, and the preservation of historical and cultural resources.  All applications are evaluated with consideration to the policies, funding objectives, and mission of the Foundation.

Grant seekers are encouraged to discuss their ideas with a Foundation board member regarding their project ideas before submitting an electronic application (contact information below). The electronic grant application can be accessed online at: grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=cfoncw

Application Deadline: Electronic applications must be submitted by 5 p.m. on the first business day in the months of January, April, July, and October to be considered in that grant cycle.

**What We Look for in Reviewing Grants**
The vision of The Merrill Area Community Foundation is to be "The recognized leader in supporting innovative programs and projects that improve the well-being and prosperity of Merrill."  With that in mind, when reviewing grants, the Board will be looking for proposals that:
- Promote collaboration and reduce the duplication of services
- Strengthen the community's ability to respond more effectively to evolving needs
- Help people to help themselves
- Build upon the cultural and economic strengths of the community
- Explore new opportunities to help the community adapt to a rapidly changing world

**What We Do Not Generally Fund**
The Merrill Area Community Foundation does not generally award grants from the fund for:

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

**Additional Information or Questions**
For additional information or to direct your proposal ideas or questions, you can contact Linda Semling Peterson at lindasempt@aol.com.

**Nondiscrimination Policy**
The Merrill Community Foundation does not discriminate based on race, ancestry, color, age, familial status, handicap, religion, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, lawful source of income, national origin, or any other discriminatory basis prohibited by state or federal law.  To be eligible for funding, grant applicants are expected to adhere to these same standards.  Consideration is given primarily to those organizations that are tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code.