



## **COMMUNITY GRANTS**

### **Fund for York County and Embracing Aging**

#### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)**

Thank you for your interest in applying for a grant through York County Community Foundation's community grant cycle. Please read our FAQ below before completing your application.

#### **What are community grants?**

Community grants are new for YCCF in 2020. Grants up to \$6,000 will be read, scored, and selected by community grant readers instead of a YCCF committee. The grant applications are significantly shorter than our other applications and will be accepted in February or July, instead of once each year. Also, the grant process is streamlined, with only 11 weeks from when it opens till when grants are awarded, instead of 25-30 weeks.

#### **Can an NPO submit a grant application in February and July?**

If NPOs apply in February but are not awarded a grant, they can apply again in July, however it needs to be for a different program/project. NPOs can only receive one grant per fund per year, so if an NPO's grant application is funded in Cycle One, it must wait until next year to apply for a different program.

#### **Will all grant programs be included in the community grant process?**

No. Memorial Health Fund and YCCF's other funds will not be making changes to their grant making processes.

#### **Who is eligible to read a grant?**

Any community member who is at least 18 years old, resides in York County, and is not employed by a nonprofit agency serving York County can review grants. Grant readers must be able to participate in at least one grant cycle per year and are expected to read/score no more than 10 grant applications per cycle. Community grant readers must agree to:

- Maintain confidentiality by not disclosing information about any of the grant applications
- Fully disclose any conflicts of interest that would prevent you from reading and scoring a grant
- Read and score grant applications in the designated timeframe
- Respond in a timely manner to YCCF communications
- Participate in grant evaluation training, such as a webinar, meeting, and/or completing provided reading materials



### **Who is eligible to receive a grant?**

Grants are awarded to nonprofit organizations, government agencies or public school districts.

The following is the criteria for a qualifying organization:

1. If a nonprofit, must be classified as a 501(c)(3) public charity under the Internal Revenue Code (this does not apply to government agencies or public school districts). Individuals are not qualified applicants
2. Must provide services directly to York County
3. Must be up to date on any active interim or post-grant reports before applying for a new grant
4. If you are not a registered 501(c)(3), you must work with a 501(c)(3), located in York County, that can apply on your behalf if your program/project has a charitable purpose in York County

### **What are the funding priorities of YCCF?**

Community grants are awarded through York County Community Foundation's Fund for York County and Embracing Aging fund.

#### Fund for York County focuses on

- Education for disadvantaged youth
- Workforce development
- Downtown revitalization in York County cities and boroughs
- Neighborhood revitalization in York City

Embracing Aging focuses on programs/projects serving York Countians age 50 and older that:

- Reducing social isolation for older adults

### **What isn't supported through YCCF's community grants program?**

- Endowments, capital campaigns, budget shortfalls, normal operations, debt retirement or association dues
- Sectarian religious programs
- Organizations with discriminatory employment or program practices
- Any form of direct financial assistance to individuals
- Reimbursement for programs or items purchased before grant is authorized

### **How do I create an account to apply online?**

If you are a new organization and it is your first time applying, visit <https://yccf.org/for-grant-seekers/applicant-resources/> to watch a step-by-step tutorial to set up a user account . If you or someone in your organization has a user account and you wish to create a new account, contact Roth Preap ([rpreap@yccf.org](mailto:rpreap@yccf.org)) in order to be provided access to YCCF's grant portal.



**Who makes the community grant decisions?**

Community volunteers will make the decisions. Those that apply to become readers will carefully review each grant application, deliberate its merits, and score it using a standard rubric. The scores will be aggregated. Grants with the highest scores will receive funding.

**If an NPO receives a grant, can the NPO spend the money on different projects?**

Any funds not expended for the specific purpose of the grant cannot be diverted to other uses without the written approval of the Foundation. Without such permission, grant recipients must return the unused portion of their grant to the Foundation.

**What recourse does an NPO have if its grant does not receive funding?**

YCCF staff retains the right to select and recommend applications that were not funded by community grant readers to YCCF's Distribution Committee and/or other community funders for their consideration.

**How can an NPO be considered for grant funding above \$6,000?**

Grant requests above \$6,000 may be considered throughout the year if they demonstrate scale and scope of change in the areas in which we grant. We are particularly interested in funding grants that create systemic change, and will consider:

- Larger multiyear grants that build collaborative groups' capacity to work in a collective-impact framework
- Programs identified by a collaborative group as having the highest priority

Go to <https://yccf.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Collective-Impact-Summary.pdf> to see a summary of the collective-impact framework.

**Can I contact the Foundation if I have any questions or need help?**

YES – please do! Any and all questions are encouraged at any point in the process.

**Questions regarding Foundant and community grantmaking, contact** Roth Preap at 717.848.3733 or at [rpreap@yccf.org](mailto:rpreap@yccf.org)

**Questions regarding program/project ideas over \$6,000, seeking funding from:**

Fund for York County, contact Lise Levin at 717.848.3733 or at [llevin@yccf.org](mailto:llevin@yccf.org)

Embracing Aging, contact Cathy Bollinger at 717.848.3733 or at [cbollinger@yccf.org](mailto:cbollinger@yccf.org)