

2026 Grant Program FAQs

What are the funding priorities?

Strategic philanthropy is the most effective way to achieve significant results with limited resources. Our grant program funds are designed to fuel community transformation in a measurable way. York County Community Foundation awards grants through a variety of funds with diverse priorities. Details about each fund and related priorities can be found on our website at: [Grant Program Funds - York County Community Foundation](#). A brief overview of our primary grant program funds and priorities include:

- THRIVE Grants from the Fund for York County support programs that help low-income families build economic mobility.
- Hahn Home Fund for Embracing Aging Grants support programs serving residents ages 50 and older.
- Memorial Health Fund Grants support programs to improve people's complete physical, mental, and social well-being.
- Racial Equity Fund Grants address equity gaps for communities of color.
- Environmental Fund Grants support projects that create a positive environmental impact in York County.
- Directed Funds support specific causes that are important to our generous donors.

Can I apply for more than one grant at a time?

As a rule, an organization can only receive funding for one active grant at a time from any given fund. However, there may be times an organization has projects that align with priorities of more than one fund. This means an organization could have an active grant with one fund at YCCF and still be eligible to apply for a grant if the project aligns with a different fund's purpose and priorities.

Is my organization eligible for a grant?

Grants are awarded to nonprofit organizations, government agencies, or public school districts. Criteria for a qualifying organization includes the following:

1. Nonprofits 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 do not qualify as applicants.
2. Nonprofits must have 501(c) (3) status for at least one year.

3. Applicant must provide services directly to York County.
4. Applicant must be up-to-date on any active interim or post-grant reports before applying for a new grant.
5. Applicant must have a board-approved Anti-Discrimination Policy.

What are the deadlines?

In 2026, it will be important to plan ahead!

- For projects that will start any time between April 15 and November 14, 2026, submit your Letter of Inquiry by December 10, 2025. If advanced on, you will receive a link to an application along with a date its due. All funding decisions will be communicated by April 1, 2026.
- For projects that will start any time after November 15, 2026, submit your Letter of Inquiry by June 10, 2026. If advanced on, you will receive a link to an application along with a date its due . All funding decisions will be communicated by November 1, 2026.

How do I start an application?

Applying for a grant with York County Community Foundation is easy!

- Step 1: Log into [the grants portal](#). If you don't have a profile yet, follow the prompts to set it up.
- Step 2: Complete the Letter of Inquiry by the due date.
- Step 3: Wait to hear back if your submission is advanced to a full application process.
- Step 4: Complete and submit the application by the deadline.

How are grant decisions made?

YCCF is truly community-centric, and that includes our grantmaking processes. Our primary funds are stewarded by community volunteers who serve on our grantmaking committees. Our volunteers review grant applications and collaborate with our team to recommend funding decisions which are ultimately approved by our community-led Board of Directors.

What types of grants are available?

Project Grants: Primarily YCCF offers project grants, which are well-defined, time-limited initiatives with specific goals. These are not intended for general operations, ongoing or

existing program costs, but rather new, expanded or one-time projects. In 2026, YCCF will offer two grant rounds for project requests.

Other Grants: We are also planning to introduce some new grant opportunities to support nonprofits with building internal capacity and/or to provide flexible funding for those addressing specific priorities. Project grant awards will not impact an organization's eligibility for these future funding opportunities which will be announced later this year.

What is the typical amount awarded?

It's difficult to specify a typical amount, but most grants range between \$5,000 - \$20,000. Rarely are grants approved for more than \$50,000. An organization would have to demonstrate significantly high impact and high need for large funding. For large scale projects, we prefer to co-fund alongside other philanthropic organizations rather than serve as the sole funder.

When will I know if I am approved?

Our grant round schedule is published to provide funding decisions on or before specific dates. In 2026, the first round of project grants will be approved by April 1 and the second round by November 1.

What if I have an urgent need for grant funding?

While it is advantageous for you to have grant requests reviewed within our published schedule, we recognize there are times when needs and opportunities arise outside of these parameters. We welcome conversations with you to determine if there are options available outside of our traditional schedule. Typically, these options are limited to smaller grant awards (less than \$10,000).

Where do I go to learn more?

You can learn all about our grant programs, eligibility, schedule, and priorities on our website. Go to www.yccf.org, click the "[GRANT SEEKERS](#)" tab in the top right corner. To submit a letter of inquiry or access current or past grants for your organization, you can click the "[Grant Login](#)" button at the very top of our website. You can also email our grants team at grants@yccf.org or give us a call at 717-848-3733.