

For more information on the Leadership Grant process, please contact Angela Dethlefs-Trettin, Chief Community Impact Officer, [trettin@desmoinesfoundation.org](mailto:trettin@desmoinesfoundation.org), (515) 244-0340.



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## Leadership Grant 2018

### *Letter of Intent Application Process Overview, Instructions and Priorities*

The Community Foundation Plays a key role in providing significant funding to leadership projects that strengthen Greater Des Moines by proactively responding to community trends and opportunities. This grant program seeks to create “tidal waves” around community issues.

#### **Leadership Grant Application Timeline:**

- Spring Cycle: Letter of Intent due on or before 4:00 p.m., Monday, April 2, 2018
- Fall Cycle: Letter of Intent due on or before 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 2, 2018

The Community Foundation will notify applicants on the status of their proposals within 45 business days of being received. Proposals that advance in the process will receive further instructions at that time.

**Grant Amount:** There is no limit on the amount of funding organizations can request; however the range of grants is typically \$25,000-\$250,000.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Grants are made only to charitable organizations or causes with 501(c)(3) status, or to governmental agencies serving a charitable purpose. Geographically, funding is limited to projects that will significantly improve the Greater Des Moines community. It is not the Community Foundation's practice to fund completed projects or proposals. We are focused on the equation of right project + right funder = right time.

**It is *required* that organizations speak with the Community Foundation’s Chief Community Impact Officer, Angela Dethlefs-Trettin, before each Leadership Grant Letter of Intent cycle to discuss the proposal.** Your Letter of Intent will not be considered for funding if you have not met with Community Foundation staff prior to submission each cycle.

#### **Leadership Grant applications WILL BE CONSIDERED for projects that:**

- Advance the Community Foundation's Leadership Agenda.
- Expand existing, high performing programs.
- Demonstrate significant community impact, are broad and wide-reaching in nature, and are inclusive of the entire Greater Des Moines community.
- Include evidence of a strong statement of community need and broad-ranging community support and endorsement, demonstrated by a broad donor base and community buy-in.
- Show evidence of long-term community planning for the project and an organizational strategic plan that has included the effort.
- Include a well-developed plan for evaluating success. Grant recipients may be asked to present project results to the Community Foundation Grantmaking Committee.
- Have an achievable plan to sustain the project well beyond the grant period.
- Recognize and celebrate our community's diversity and provide access for underserved populations. Show planning for outreach and accessibility to underserved populations.
- Demonstrate evidence of sufficient planning and organizational capacity to suggest a good opportunity for success.
- Show strong probability for leveraged funding from other sources.
- Include an opportunity for the Community Foundation to participate in a "signature" program or project within the scope of the entire project.

### **Funding will be most favorably considered for proposals that**

- Align with the Community Foundation's Leadership Agenda (included with this information)
- Build social capital.
- Are collaborative in nature.
- Are sustainable to ensure community impact
- Are positioned to leverage additional resources and support
- Have not received a Leadership Grant in the prior year.
- Have committed to meeting the Iowa Principles and Practices for Charitable Nonprofit Excellence identified by the Iowa Nonprofit Resource Center.
- Connect to community vision and or planning projects (ex. Capital Crossroads, Refugee Planning Alliance and OpportUNITY).

### **Specific examples of projects eligible for Leadership Grants include**

- New or enhanced programs and projects that will be the result of an expansion or building project.
- Expansion of high performing, results-driven programs.
- Seed funding for long-term community betterment project (i.e. annual festival).
- Projects that will enhance recreational or community economic development.
- Projects that address a critical issue and build community connections and partnerships.

### **The Community Foundation WILL NOT CONSIDER**

- Ongoing annual operating expenses or continued program funding.
- Grants to individuals.
- Sectarian religious programs promoting a particular faith.
- Projects not serving residents of Greater Des Moines.
- Proposals submitted by organizations that have not met with Community Foundation staff regarding the project during the current grant cycle.

### **Letter of Intent Process and Narrative Questions Overview**

The following is an overview of requested information within the Letter of Intent application process. Community Foundation grant applications are available for completion through an online web portal called Manage My Grants. To obtain a username and password for Manage My Grants, please contact Thomas Biedenfeld at [Biedenfeld@desmoinesfoundation.org](mailto:Biedenfeld@desmoinesfoundation.org) or 515-447-4219.

### **Budget Information**

- Funding request amount
- Total project budget
- What percent of the overall project budget is being requested?
- Organization's total annual budget

### **Proposal Information**

- Please provide a brief overview of your organization, including mission statement and future goals.
- Share the anticipated timeline for this project, including a starting and ending date.
- Articulate, in detail, the full scope of the project and the community need being addressed (350 words).
- Please describe how your organization engages a variety of voices and/or the clients you serve in developing your programming and implementing your mission.
- If this project includes a formal collaboration, please share information about each partner and their contributions to the project (300 words).
- Outside the Community Foundation's Leadership Agenda, please share if your project aligns with strategies outlined in regional community plans and /or current community initiatives (e.g. Capital Crossroads, Tomorrow Plan). Please state the strategy(ies) and how the project addresses it (300 words).
- How does this project align with our Leadership Agenda Strategies (you will select from a provided list).
- State how the project will impact the Community Foundation Leadership Agenda Strategies.

### **Required Documents**

- Project Budget – provide additional details, pending requests, etc.
- Organization Budget
- List of applicant organization's board of directors
- Additional desired information, including any letters of support

## Focus Areas

Areas for Grantmaking/ Community Plan alignment

## 2018 Grantmaking Priorities

Our Funding Strategies

### Arts and Culture

[Capital Crossroads](#), [Central Iowa Regional Cultural Assessment](#)

**Improve Access:** Support equitable access to and participation in artistic and cultural experiences for new & underserved populations.

### Community Betterment

[Capital Crossroads](#), [Challenges for Mental Health](#), [DART 2035](#), [Des Moines Vision 2031](#), [Housing Tomorrow Plan](#), [One Economy](#), [OpportUNITY](#), [Refugee Community Plan](#), [The Tomorrow Plan](#)

**Improve the Quality of Life:** Improve the quality of life through recreation, restoration, beautification, and sustainability efforts.

**Improve the Quality of the Community:** Improve the quality of the community through economic development strategies and effective mobility and transportation solutions.

**Improve the Quality of Neighborhoods:** Improve the quality and desirability of neighborhoods through safe, affordable housing options and improvement strategies.

### Education

[Capital Crossroads](#), [Community Health Needs Assessment](#), [One Economy](#), [OpportUNITY](#), [Refugee Community Plan](#), [United Way of Central Iowa](#)

**Collaboration for Academic Achievement:** Promote collaborative initiatives to improve academic achievement, particularly for those identified as low-income, at-risk of dropping out or falling behind educational benchmarks or are from minority populations.

### Health

[AARP Age Friendly City](#), [Capital Crossroads](#), [Children's Mental Health Crisis Plan](#), [Challenges for Mental Health](#), [Community Health Needs Assessment](#), [One Economy](#), [OpportUNITY](#), [Refugee Community Plan](#), [United Way of Central Iowa](#)

**Reduce Barriers to Health:** Promote systemic and collaborative efforts targeted at reducing barriers to health for the most vulnerable in our community. Provide support to efforts that ensure all people have full and equal access to opportunities that enable them to lead healthy lives.

### Social Capital

[AARP Age Friendly City](#), [Capital Crossroads](#), [Challenges for Mental Health](#), [Community Health Needs Assessment](#), [Des Moines Vision 2031](#), [Ending Youth Homelessness Plan](#), [Housing Tomorrow Plan](#), [One Economy](#), [OpportUNITY](#), [Refugee Community Plan](#), [The Tomorrow Plan](#)

**Community Connections:** Build stronger community connections through partnerships and collaborations that mobilize community assets to implement effective solutions to a shared vision.

**Strengthen Underrepresented and Underserved Communities:** Support programs and practices, rooted in equity and inclusion, which empower and engage diverse community members.

### Strengthening Individuals and Families in our Community

[Capital Crossroads](#), [Children's Mental Health Crisis Plan](#), [Challenges for Mental Health](#), [Community Health Needs Assessment](#), [Ending Youth Homelessness Plan](#), [One Economy](#), [OpportUNITY](#), [Refugee Community Plan](#), [The Tomorrow Plan](#), [United Way of Central Iowa](#)

**Develop Support Systems:** Develop support systems for vulnerable individuals and families in our community.

**Progressive Strategies:** Develop progressive strategies and systemic solutions to address critical human needs issues, such as homelessness, affordable housing and poverty.

### Workforce Development

[Capital Crossroads](#), [OpportUNITY](#), [Refugee Community Plan](#), [United Way of Central Iowa](#)

### Workforce Development- Job Training and Skills

**Enhancement:** Assist individuals to become self-sufficient through education/certification attainment, job training and job skills enhancement.