

For more information on the Leadership Grant process please contact:

Brianne Sanchez, Director of Nonprofit Relations
sanchez@desmoinesfoundation.org or (515) 883-2629



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www.desmoinesfoundation.org
515.883.2626

Leadership Grant 2020

Initial 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 responding to community needs, issues and opportunities. This grant program seeks to create “tidal waves” around community issues.

Leadership Grant Application Timeline:

- Spring Cycle: Initial Application due by 4 p.m. Wednesday, April 1, 2020
 - Notifications sent week of April 20; final application due Monday, May 11 at Noon
- Fall Cycle: Initial Application due by 4 p.m. Thursday, October 1, 2020
 - Notifications sent week of Oct. 19; final application due Thursday, Nov. 5 at Noon

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 focus around a philosophy of: Right project, right funder, right time.

It is ***required*** that organizations speak with a representative of the Community Foundation’s Community Investment team before submitting a Leadership Grant Initial Application to discuss the proposal. Your application will not be considered for funding if you have not met with Community Foundation staff prior to submission.

The Community Foundation WILL NOT CONSIDER:

- Ongoing annual operating expenses or continued program funding.
- Grants to individuals.
- Sectarian religious programs promoting a specific 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.

Funding will be most favorably considered for proposals that:

- Align with the Community Foundation's Grantmaking Priorities (included with this information).
- Connect to one or more community visions/plans (linked within our [Grantmaking Priorities](#)).
- Address the questions in the [4Equity tool](#) to achieve a more inclusive community.
- Build social capital and 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](#).

[Read more about recently funded leadership grant projects.](#)

Leadership Application and Narrative Questions Overview:

The following is an overview of requested information within the Leadership Application process:

Basic Information

- Project Title
- Organization information [EIN, address, website]
- Contact information for Executive Director/CEO and Grant Contact
- Is your organization listed in the Iowa Principles and Practices Registry of Accountability? [Encouraged but not required]

Budget Information

- Funding request amount
- Total project budget; Percent of the overall project budget being requested
- Organization's total annual budget

Initial Application Narrative

Please limit responses for each question to 400 words or fewer

- Please provide a brief overview of your organization. Include: mission statement, focus areas and strategic goals.
- Please provide an executive summary of the project you are seeking funding to support. Include: Specific project goals, anticipated outcomes, any collaborations/ partnerships supporting the work.
- Please characterize and describe the impact you believe the requested funding will have on the proposed project.
- The Community Foundation's Leadership Grant program is intended to generate a "tidal wave" impact on a community issue/priority. Please characterize and describe the impact the proposed project will have on the community issue it addresses. Include: References to one or more of the Community Foundation's grantmaking priorities and the project's strategic alignment with relevant regional community plans/initiatives.
- What specific action(s) will be implemented to advance equity, inclusion and access as it relates to your project or proposal.

Full Application Narrative

Please limit responses for each question to 400 words or fewer

- From your organizations' perspective, please describe the significance of the issue being addressed by your project to the community at large, and why your organization is uniquely positioned to address the issue through the proposed project.
- Please provide a timeline for the proposed project.
- Have a variety of ethnic communities/people of color been informed, meaningfully involved and authentically represented in the project design or strategy development? If so, please describe the engagement. If not, please explain.
- Provide a summary regarding the current fundraising status of the proposed project. Please include funding commitments from your Board of Directors, grants secured, major gifts, and timelines for any challenge/matching grants.
- Will the implementation of this project impact your organization's annual budget in future years? If yes, how will the budget be impacted and how will your organization address this change? How will the project be sustained?

Required Documents

- Project Budget [Include secured funding as well as pending and planned requests.]
- List of organization's Board of Directors
- Organization Budget
- First three pages of latest 990 requested for Final Application (final application only)

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 Bridgett Robinson at 515-447-4209 or robinson@desmoinesfoundation.org. Applicants are asked to update their organizational profile prior to applying.

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Focus Areas Areas for Grantmaking/ Community Plan alignment	2020 Grantmaking Priorities Our funding strategies:
Arts and Culture Capital Crossroads , Central Iowa Regional Cultural Assessment	Activate engagement by supporting equitable access to and participation in artistic and cultural experiences for new & underserved populations.
Community Betterment AARP Age Friendly City , Capital Crossroads , Challenges for Mental Health , DART 2035 , Des Moines Vision 2031 , Housing Tomorrow Plan , Ending Youth Homelessness Plan , One Economy , OpportUNITY , Refugee Community Plan , The Path Forward , The Tomorrow Plan	Improve the quality of life for all through recreation, restoration, beautification, and sustainability efforts. Increase availability and improve access to effective mobility & transportation solutions, safe & affordable housing, and inclusive economic development strategies.
Education Capital Crossroads , One Economy , OpportUNITY , Refugee Community Plan , United Way of Central Iowa	Partner for academic achievement through collaborative initiatives that support students, 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 , Housing Tomorrow Plan , One Economy , OpportUNITY , Refugee Community Plan , The Path Forward , United Way of Central Iowa ,	Reduce barriers to health with systemic, equitable efforts that support the most vulnerable in our community. Enhance the overall health and well-being of individuals in our community.
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 Path Forward , The Tomorrow Plan	Collaborate to strengthen connections that develop and support solutions to critical community needs. Advance equity by supporting programs and practices which empower and engage diverse community voices.
Strengthening Individuals and Families in our Community AARP Age Friendly City , 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 Path Forward , The Tomorrow Plan , United Way of Central Iowa	Strengthen support systems for vulnerable individuals and families, including those from underserved communities. Develop progressive strategies and systemic solutions to address critical human needs issues, such as homelessness, affordable housing, access to care and reducing poverty.
Workforce Development Capital Crossroads , OpportUNITY , Refugee Community Plan , United Way of Central Iowa	Enhance workforce opportunities for individuals to become self-sufficient through education/certification attainment, job training and job skills enhancement.