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515.883.2626

2021 Capacity Building Grants

The Community Foundation Capacity Building grant program invests in initiatives that help nonprofit organizations strengthen their internal management and governance or deepen strategic collaborations. Our community thrives when our nonprofit sector thrives. Our goal is to support the building of resilient nonprofits that can not only navigate through challenging times of disruption but also leverage opportunities that move their missions forward to the betterment of our community. We focus our grantmaking on organizations serving Greater Des Moines.

Examples of well-aligned capacity building projects:

- Strategic planning and visioning for the nonprofit.
- Succession and talent pipeline planning to ensure organizational leadership.
- Financial scenario/business planning for stability.
- Fund development/marketing strategy development (excluding feasibility studies).
- Exploration and implementation of strategic alignment and mergers between organizations.
- Collective planning/assessment among multiple partners seeking to address a community issue.

Projects **not** eligible or competitive for the Capacity Building grant program may be a better fit for our [GIVEdsm](#) platform.

Examples might include:

- Ongoing annual operating and program expenses
- Capital infrastructure projects (bricks and mortar)
- Sectarian religious programs promoting a particular faith
- Tactical items such as hardware/equipment, collateral materials, donor management software or website development

Grant amounts: Projects serving individual organizations may apply for up to \$5,000. Projects between or among multiple partners may be eligible for up to \$25,000.

Interested in applying? We recognize capacity building needs can vary widely and welcome the opportunity to explore possibilities with you. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis; decisions are communicated in approximately 10 business days.

Please reach out to Kameron Middlebrooks, middlebrooks@desmoinesfoundation.org to schedule a meeting with a member of the Community Impact team and to obtain login credentials for Manage My Grants (our online application portal) and [GIVEdsm](#).

Capacity Building Grant application questions:

- Project Title
- Organization information [EIN, Address, website]
- Contact information for Executive Director/CEO and Grant Contact

Budget information:

- Funding request amount
- Total project budget
- Organization's total annual budget
- If the request is partially funded with a CB grant, will the project continue?

Project information:

- Provide an overview of your organization, including mission statement and future goals including those that reflect equity centered strategies.
- State the organizational need and how it will be addressed with a Capacity Building Grant. If the project is a result of the pandemic, please provide details on the challenge as well as the opportunity presented.
- Please articulate if this project will focus on a single organizational need in management or governance, or a collaborative effort among multiple entities.
- Share the anticipated timeline for this project.
- Please share the stakeholders that you anticipate will be engaged in the project.
- Does your organization plan to work with a consultant? If yes, please upload a detailed work plan submitted by the consultant after this application is submitted that includes the hourly rate for the consultant, estimated number of hours for the project and deliverables.

Required documents:

- Project budget detailing other sources of funding including your organization's and/or board's financial commitment and the amount requested from the Community Foundation.
- List of the organization's Board of Directors.
- Consultant Work Plan (if applicable).

Grant requirements:

- Grantees must complete an online grant agreement to release funding.
- An evaluation is due within one year of the grant award, including project deliverables and budgetary documentation.

For more information on the Capacity Building Grant process, please contact:

Kameron Middlebrooks, Director of Community Impact | middlebrooks@desmoinesfoundation.org or (515) 447-4204