



## Blue River Community Foundation Granting Guidance For Competitive Grants

*Blue River Community Foundation is a catalyst for igniting action to  
improve the quality of life in Shelby County.*

Blue River Community Foundation, Inc. (BRCF) is a community-based philanthropic organization that identifies, promotes, supports and manages programs that will enhance the quality of life in Shelby County for this generation and future generations. More specifically, we are focused on attracting new residents and retaining our current residents who contribute positively to our community through engagement, skills, talent and commonly held desires for educational excellence, opportunities, inclusion, and a better quality of life. We favor projects that help our young to envision a future here, our current residents to want to stay and grow here, and those that have left to desire returning home. We strive to support organizations that can help us achieve these goals through programs in the following areas of interest: community and civic programs, arts and culture, education, health and social services.

### **Is your organization eligible for a BRCF Community Grant?**

Grants are awarded to local 501(c)3 nonprofits and organizations that are exempt from filing for a 501 (c)3 status. Organizations without 501(c)3 designation must show documentation of charitable purpose. It is advisable to have a fiscal sponsor secured and have proper documentation outlining the fiscal sponsors responsibilities. Units of government, school corporations, and religious organizations all qualify for funding. Religious organizations can only be awarded grants for projects that are non-proselytizing and do not promote the teachings of a particular church or denomination. BRCF does not award grants to individuals.

### **Is your organization's proposal eligible for funding?**

- Only projects or programs serving Shelby County residents will be considered.
- Organization must have adequate accounting procedures in order to be considered for grants.
- Projects that have already been started or completed will not be considered nor will previously incurred debts.
- Travel for educational or other purposes will not be considered.
- Projects which are considered part of a regular school curriculum will not be covered.
- Grants will not be made to create or augment organizational endowments or annual campaign drives.
- Political campaigns are not eligible for grants.
- General operating support is not typically eligible. Occasionally, we may provide general operating support for a new or pilot program.

### **How much funding can an organization apply for?**

Grants range from \$1,000-\$50,000.

## **Grant Guidelines**

There are several components and criteria that make up a favorable proposal. We encourage an organization to be sure one or more of the following components are a part of their project or program:

- The program or project is innovative, transformational and/or IMPACTFUL.
- The program or project is one that is proactive in responding to a local need or opportunity.
- The program or project is solution oriented and solves a pressing problem with documented needs.
- The plan enhances cooperation and collaboration among multiple organizations within the community.
- For larger requests, participation of other contributions by using matching challenges, government funding, grants from other foundations and associations and /or private contributions are encouraged.
- Demonstration of the commitment of the organizations governing board. Good board member attendance and contributions are important.
- The project is sustainable and able to be funded by the organization in the future.

### **What is the first step in the application process?**

Before applying for a grant, an organization must first visit the Blue River Community Foundation website and submit a Grant Interest Form. Deadlines vary yearly. Please visit our website or contact Jordan England at 317-392-7955 or [jengland@blueriverfoundation.com](mailto:jengland@blueriverfoundation.com) to find out the current year's deadlines for both grant interest forms and grant applications.

### **What additional information is required with the full application?**

- Organization's most recent year-end financial statements, audited if available, showing actual revenues and expenses.
- Organization's current year's operating budget
- If applicable, a copy of the fiscal agent agreement.
- Most recently filed IRS 990 form and W-9
- IRS determination letter if not submitted previously
- MOU's (Memorandum of Understanding) with partnering organizations, if applicable. One organization must be the lead organization and will be the applicant. BRCF has a MOU template available upon request.
- Quotes for any services, material, and/or labor. Projects with labor and/or materials over \$5,000 will require a second quote.
- List of applicant's organizational board members with their contact information

Upon review of the applications, our grant's committee may ask additional questions or request additional documentation not included in these guidelines.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

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