

Grant Criteria

2022 Grant Program

The following criteria are applied to each proposal received by The Schenectady Foundation, and are used to guide the grant decisions of the Distribution Committee.

Transformative Change – How will the project contribute to change in the community?

- Will the project achieve an observable, measurable change in the community, or in the people served?
- Is the degree of change compelling?
- How, for whom, and to what extent will the community benefit?
- How will the project's "success" be determined?
- How will progress and success be measured and reported?

Community Benefit and Value – How will the Foundation's support of this project lead to improvements in the community?

- Is the project clear on its target population and impact?
- Does the project provide a clear and measurable benefit to the community?
- What is the program's value to the population served, and to the greater community?

Achieving and Sustaining Success – Good investments are usually sustainable after the Foundation's funding is gone.

- Is there a workable plan of action to guide the implementation of the project to results?
- How risky is the project in terms of the applicant's track record, and the barriers to success?
- Is the potential outcome of the project worth the risk?
- Does the project have community support?
- Does the project have diverse and consistent funding streams?
- Can the project be sustained financially?
- Can the project be sustained programmatically?

Return on Investment – What is the value of the project results in relation to the financial investment to support implementation?

- What is the measurable benefit of the project relative to the cost of supporting it?
- Do the benefits justify the expense?
- Will the project realize efficiencies over time that make it a sound investment?
- Will there be savings or added revenues in other program areas?

- What have been the experiences of similar projects, and their results?
- What is the cost of supporting the project relative to the cost of *not* successfully undertaking the project?
- Are there other investments that would realize a higher ROI?

Leadership – Project success often hinges on leadership; the people who play key roles in making the project work.

- Is there a skilled and passionate champion for the project?
- Are the leader and key people trained, effective, and committed?
- Is the support of the board/volunteers evident, strong, and likely to be important?

Please contact Kristi Milligan with questions about these decision-making criteria;
KMilligan@schenectadyfoundation.org or (518) 393-9500.