



Grant Applicant Eligibility & Guidelines

The Schenectady Foundation's Grant Program

The Schenectady Foundation was established in 1963 as a charitable trust intended to improve the well-being of people who live or work in Schenectady County, NY. The following are *requirements* of grant applicants:

- Applicants must be non-profit corporations registered with the New York State Office of Charities Registration, and designated as a 501(c) 3 tax-exempt organization by the IRS.
- Organizations that do not have 501(c) 3 status may only apply if a qualified tax-exempt charity serves as fiscal agent for the grant.
- Applicants must primarily serve Schenectady County residents.
- Applicant organizations are in good standing with the IRS and NYS Charities Bureau.
- Current grantees must, at the time a new grant application is submitted, have substantially completed their grants and provided timely and informative progress reports that demonstrate their impact.

The Foundation does *not* fund:

- Individuals seeking grants or loans.
- Private businesses seeking grants or loans.
- Requests to fund endowments or quasi-endowments.

Local governments (counties, cities, towns, or villages) are generally ineligible to receive grant funding from the Foundation. Interested applicants should first discuss their project with Foundation staff.

Grant Considerations

The Foundation aims to support organizations' projects and programs with a focus on meaningful, measurable outcomes. Regardless of the type of request, applicants must establish their ability to complete and sustain projects beyond the Foundation's support.

The Foundation looks favorably upon grant proposals that leverage other sources of funding as well, rather than relying solely on the Foundation's award to fully fund a project.

The Foundation discourages requests from organizations holding unrestricted reserves in excess of 200% of their annual operating expenses.

Capital Campaigns

The Foundation recognizes the importance for organizations to periodically conduct major capital campaigns. Such is often the case with larger non-profits, hospitals, health care institutions, theatres, colleges and universities whose business models require them to maintain sizeable facilities and hard assets.

While the Foundation remains open to requests for major capital campaigns, it is our policy that capital campaign grant requests:

- 1) *must substantively* align with our established community impact statements and focus area issues: Equitable Access to Healthy Food; Neighborhood Revitalization; and Emergent Needs. Applicants shall demonstrate how the components of the capital campaign contribute to better outcomes for residents of Schenectady County – particularly those most marginalized or lacking resources;
- 2) shall not be a *significant* percentage of the Foundation’s annual grant budget.

Grant Size

There is no specific minimum or maximum size for grant requests. Foundation grants have ranged, in recent years, from \$1,000 to \$500,000. Over the past three years (2021 – 2023) the average amount granted has been about \$40,000. **Micro Grants** are available for applicants who request \$10,000 or less.

Multi-Year Grants

While organizations may apply for multi-year awards, the Foundation rarely approves awards that extend past a two-year commitment. Organizations that have received Foundation funding are allowed to make subsequent requests once their most recent grant is substantially completed.

Matching Grants

Occasionally, the Foundation will approve a grant with a matching condition, which entitles the grantee to funds once a particular amount has been secured from other sources.

References

The Foundation will seek the perspective of other funders, organization leaders, constituents, and customers of the applicant organization to add value to its understanding of the proposal