

GRANT DECISION CRITERIA

The Schenectady Foundation endeavors to make transformative, community-informed grants that drive lasting change in Schenectady County. To this end, our grant-making process is fair, equitable, and transparent. We have established the following criteria to guide all our decisions. The grant application questions align with these criteria. While application responses are significant, our conferences with applicants also weigh heavily to ensure a clear understanding of the proposed project.

The following ideas drive our decision process:

- **Community Need:**
 - Has the applicant clearly defined the need that will be addressed by their proposed project? Is data presented that demonstrates the need?
- **Target Population:**
 - Does the applicant have a clear picture of who they are trying to serve? What are the size and characteristics of the target population?
- **Engagement:**
 - Has the applicant involved the community and people to be served in the planning, design or evaluation of the proposed project?
- **Impact:**
 - Will the project improve the lives of community members and create meaningful change in the community? What differences will be seen or felt during and after the project is completed? Is the degree of change compelling?
- **Project Activities:**
 - Do the planned activities lead to defined outputs or outcomes that address the community's needs?
- **Outputs:**
 - Has the applicant adequately described and quantified the outputs to be achieved? Were the results of stated activities shown through measurable products?
- **Outcomes:**
 - Has the applicant clearly identified short-term, intermediate, or long-term outcomes that demonstrate intended changes in the community or among participants? Are the outcomes measurable, quantitatively or qualitatively?

- **Project Impact:**
 - Is the applicant clear on how the intended outcomes lead to the overall impact or change that is desired?
- **Collaboration:**
 - If this project involves multiple organizations or programs, are the roles of each clearly stated and meaningful? Does the collaboration make the best use of their respective capabilities?
- **Achieving & Sustaining Success:**
 - How likely is this project to achieve its intended results? Can these results be sustained beyond the term of the proposed grant, both financially and programmatically?
- **Budget:**
 - Is the project budget clear regarding sources of income and expenses? Does the budget seem adequate to accomplish the desired results? Are other income sources identified?