***OTTAWA COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION***

**GUIDELINES FOR GRANT SEEKERS**

The Ottawa County Community Foundation, Inc. (OCCF) is a public charitable organization created by the citizens of the county to enrich the quality of life for individuals and families in Ottawa County. Grants from unrestricted funds support a variety of programs in the fields of education, social services, physical and mental health, safe and positive living environments, natural resources and the arts.

**Eligibility**

To be eligible, an organization must provide services to residents of Ottawa County. Grants can only be awarded to tax-exempt organizations classified as 501(c)(3) charities by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). If your organization does not have a tax-exempt ruling from the IRS, you may still apply for a grant by using a tax-exempt fiduciary agent. Contact us if you would like to discuss options for a fiduciary agent.

**Restrictions**

The Foundation *usually* will not make grants from its unrestricted funds to:

* + - support the general operating budget of established organizations
		- annual or capital campaigns
		- tickets for benefits and telephone solicitations
		- support sectarian activities of religious organizations

**Grant Application Process**

**OCCF considers grant requests annually. Applications must be submitted by U.S. mail and postmarked** **no later than March 15** (when March 15 falls on Sunday, applications must be postmarked no later than March 16). *Incomplete applications or applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered.* **Send 2 copies of the grant proposal and 2 copies of all required attachments to:**

**Ottawa County Community Foundation, Inc.**

**P.O. Box 36, Port Clinton Ohio 43452**

All grant applications are carefully reviewed by a committee appointed by the Foundation’s Board of Trustees. Applicant organizations will be notified in writing of approval/denial of funding requests by June 1. *Project expenses incurred by an applicant organization prior to notification cannot be paid by the Foundation.*

**Grant Review Criteria**

The Ottawa County Community Foundation will place priority consideration on proposals that:

* *encourage more efficient use of community resources.*
* *preserve the area’s heritage and contribute to the quality of life.*
* *demonstrate new approaches and techniques in the solution of community problems.*
* *focus on the prevention of problems rather than the cure.*
* *represent an unduplicated opportunity and meet a significant community need.*
* *demonstrate the availability of matching funds to leverage additional support.*
* *would have a long-lasting positive effect on residents of Ottawa County, supporting the*

*Foundation’s motto of “Doing Good. Forever.”*

**GRANT PROPOSAL CONTENTS**

**Grant Proposal – Required Elements**

**The written proposal should be in narrative form and limited to five pages (including the project budget page). Please submit two copies of your grant proposal.** **Do not bind the proposal (you can paper clip or staple in the upper left hand corner).** The following **must** be addressed in all proposals:

1. **Purpose and need:** What are the goals and objectives of the project/program? What is the problem or need that will be addressed? Who will benefit from the project or program?
2. **Implementation:** Summarize your plans to implement the project/program and include a brief timeline. Who will be responsible for overseeing the program? How are they qualified to oversee the program?
3. **Evaluation:** How will you evaluate the success of your proposed program/project as related to the goals and objectives?
4. **Future support:** If this is an ongoing program/project, how will you sustain the program once OCCF funds are expended?
5. **Budget**: A one-page budget for the project/program for which OCCF funds are requested, showing:

• *projected income and expenses*

• *all sources of project/program funding (indicate requested or received)*

• *the period (start/end dates) for which OCCF funds are being requested*

**Required Attachments**

**Two (2) copies of each of the following attachments must be included with all proposals.**

**Attachment 1**: Completed “Application Summary Form.”

**Attachment 2:** Names and affiliations of your organization’s board.

**Attachment 3**: A brief background/history of your organization, including when the organization was established, its mission/purpose, major accomplishments, current programs and services, and any previous funding from the Ottawa County Community Foundation.

**Attachment 4**: Organization’s operating budget showing income and expenses for current fiscal year.

**Attachment 5:** Organization’s or fiduciary agent’s tax-exempt determination letter of non-profit status from the Internal Revenue Service. (Certification from Ohio Secretary of State or IRS Employment Identification Number is not acceptable.)

**Questions? Please contact us!**

419-797-4293 (Joy Roth, OCCF President) or 419-862-2688 (Jon James, Grants Chair)

email: info@ottawaccf.org website: [**www.ottawaccf.org**](http://www.ottawaccf.org/)

 Grant Number \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 (OCCF will assign a number for this blank.)

***OTTAWA COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION***

APPLICATION SUMMARY FORM

ORGANIZATION NAME:

PROJECT TITLE:

AMOUNT REQUESTED:

TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR PROJECT INCLUDING PROPOSED USE OF FOUNDATION FUNDS:

ORGANIZATION’S CURRENT OPERATING BUDGET:

ORGANIZATION’S SOURCES OF FUNDING:

AUDIT AVAILABLE: YES NO - If no, please explain.

IRS TAX-EXEMPT DETERMINATION LETTER OF NON-PROFIT STATUS INCLUDED IN YOUR APPLICATION:

YES NO - If no, refer to Eligibility section in Grant Guidelines

GRANT CONTACT PERSON and TITLE:

ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBER: EMAIL:

DO NOT CHANGE THIS FORM—ONE PAGE ONLY