

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 Ottawa 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, health and social services, economic development, 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 fiscal agent. Please contact us to discuss options.

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

Community Grant Application Process

OCCF considers grant requests annually. Each eligible organization may submit one (1) application per grant cycle. We will consider grant applications up to \$5,000. Proposals must be submitted via the Foundation's online application process between January 1 and the **deadline, March 1 at 11:59 p.m.** *Incomplete applications will not be considered.*

To apply, use the link on the OCCF website (www.ottawaccf.org/grants) that will take you to our affiliate, Greater Toledo Community Foundation, where you will find the OCCF application portal.

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 prior to notification cannot be paid by OCCF.

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.*
- *will have a long-lasting positive effect on residents of Ottawa County, supporting the Foundation's motto of "Doing Good. Forever".*