



Special Project Challenge Grant Guidelines

Application Deadlines: March 1 & October 1
E-mail submission required to grants@cfsjc.org.

What is the Special Project Challenge Grant?

The Community Foundation of St. Joseph County offers the Special Project Challenge Grant to assist public and other 501(c)(3) agencies in their efforts to serve community needs. For every \$1 raised by the chosen agency, the Community Foundation will match \$1.

Why a Challenge Grant?

Challenge grants work. Donors are more willing to give and often willing to give more if their contributions are matched by other funds. Used wisely, not-for-profit agencies will find challenge grants an excellent tool to raise the funds necessary to complete projects.

The following guidelines apply:

- The project should benefit a significant constituency within the community.
- The agency must exhibit the ability to raise the required matching funds.
- Only cash gifts will be matched.

Areas of Interest

The Community Foundation encourages projects in the following areas (listed alphabetically):

- Community Development & Urban Affairs
- Health & Human Services
- Parks, Recreation, & Environment
- Youth & Education

******An important note regarding Arts & Culture requests:***

The majority of arts & culture related proposals should be submitted to the ArtsEverywhere Grants process (Separate guidelines available). Only requests that are primarily health and human service oriented in nature, but that utilize the arts as a tool or method, should be submitted through this Special Project Challenge Grant process.

How does an organization apply for the Special Project Challenge Grant?

The Special Project Challenge Grant proposal deadlines are **March 1 and October 1**. Application materials must be submitted via e-mail to grants@cfsjc.org in word processing format (narrative or budget) or Microsoft Excel (budget). Hard copy applications will no longer be accepted.

Agencies with a special project consistent with the guidelines and priorities described herein must submit the **Special Project Challenge Grant Cover Sheet** which briefly addresses the following points:

- Brief Project Description
- Specific goals/objectives of the project
- Evaluation of the outcomes of the project
- Raising of the required matching funds
- Sustainability of project after grant funding is expended

The Special Project Challenge Grant Cover Sheet is downloadable in Word format at <http://www.cfsjc.org/grantopp/>. The document is a Microsoft Word Form in which the fields expand to accommodate multiple lines of text. Please contact Foundation Program Officer if you experience problems with the document or you need it in another format.

The following are required attachments to the cover sheet:

- Up to 2-page proposal narrative (Word processing format, no PDF documents.)
- Detailed Project Budget (Include sources of revenue & expenses.)
- Current Board Roster with officers identified
- IRS Determination Letter (Only required if not yet on file. Hard copy can be mailed to Foundation if scanned document not available for e-mail.)

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NOTE: It is the responsibility of the grant-seeking organization to submit a complete request. Incomplete requests run the risk of being declined without consideration. The letters of request will be reviewed by the Grants Committee and outstanding requests will be identified for further consideration. Site visits will be conducted at the Grants Committee's discretion. Agencies may be asked to submit additional information.

Notification and Announcement

The Grants Committee's recommendations are submitted to the Community Foundation's board of directors at the April and November meetings. Applicants are informed immediately thereafter regarding the status of their request. Announcement of the special project and grant award will be made by the Community Foundation. The chosen agency will have 12 months to meet pre-negotiated matching requirements.

Will Grants be Evaluated?

Yes. Grants will be evaluated to verify successful completion of the project as defined in the grant proposal and compliance with any conditions made at the time of the grant. Excellent evaluations will enhance the credibility of the recipient organization and their subsequent grant requests. The reverse is also true. Failure to carry out successfully the objectives detailed in your grant proposal may compromise your chances for additional funding.

What will the Community Foundation Generally Not Fund?

While the Community Foundation remains flexible in trying to meet community needs, in general, grants are not made to fund:

- Operational phases of established programs
- Endowment campaigns
- Religious organizations for religious purposes
- Individuals directly
- Development or public relations activities (e.g. literature, videos, etc.)
- Retirement of debts
- Camperships
- Annual appeals or membership contributions
- Travel for bands, sports teams, classes, etc.
- Computers (unless presented as a necessary component of larger program or objective)
- Post-event or after-the-fact situations

What are the Priorities of the Community Foundation?

The Board has defined as the role and priorities of the Community Foundation:

- To promote organizations whose programs benefit the residents of St. Joseph County
- To assist existing agencies to better respond to the needs of the community
- To encourage and reward excellence in the not-for-profit field
- To maintain both a proactive focus for grants dollars and the ability to respond to creative ideas from grant seekers
- To encourage programs that enhance cooperation and collaboration among institutions within the area
- To promote innovative, collaborative efforts to improve the health and well being of St. Joseph County residents.