



Discretionary Grant Programs for Nonprofit Organizations

FY2027 Discretionary Information

Contents

Discretionary Grants Program Overview | Page 2

Discretionary Grants Program | Page 4

For All Grant Questions and Correspondence Contact:

Tania Arseculeratne

Senior Community Engagement Officer

(937) 225-9966

tarseculeratne@daytonfoundation.org

Mailing Address:

The Dayton Foundation

1401 S. Main Street, Suite 100

Dayton, Ohio 45409

The Dayton Foundation awards grants to help your organization help others in Greater Dayton. Grants for public charitable purposes are awarded to a full spectrum of 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organizations – from social services and the arts, to health and the environment – based upon worthy community efforts and the greatest community need. The programs we consider for support are located primarily in Montgomery, Miami, Greene, Darke, Preble and Warren (north) counties. Grantmaking policy and specific grant decisions are made by the Governing Board following review by program staff and the Grants Committee. The size and number of grant awards are directly related to the amount of money available each year and the restrictions donors have placed upon the uses of certain funds. The Grants Committee reserves the right to make exceptions to the grant application process.

Grants Orientation

To learn more about the grant process, a Discretionary Grants Orientation video is available online at www.daytonfoundation.org/discretionary-grants#grantsvideo. While viewing this video is not required, we encourage you to watch it so that you may learn more about how to apply for a grant and your organization's eligibility.

To be eligible for a grant, your organization must:

- » be recognized as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization, according to the Internal Revenue Code;
- » be established for at least two years as a nonprofit organization and have a track record of sustainability;
- » benefit citizens in the Dayton Region;
- » address needs that are not met fully by existing organizational or community resources;
- » demonstrate systemic collaboration; and
- » demonstrate a commitment to creating opportunities and access for all individuals in organizational practices.

When evaluating projects for funding, we consider the following factors.

- » Comprehensive program design
- » Realistic expectations and the capacity to implement the project
- » Appropriately trained staff and/or volunteers
- » Financial resources to start and continue the project
- » Unique and unduplicated opportunity that will affect a substantial number of people
- » Size and potential impact of the project

What We Generally Do Not Fund

- » Projects that are narrowly focused in geography, impact and number of participants
- » General organizational operations and ongoing programs
- » Individuals
- » Scientific, medical or academic research projects

- » Operational deficits or reduced or lost funding
- » Sectarian activities of religious organizations
- » Scholarships and travel grants
- » Annual fundraising drives, ceremonies, conferences, workshops, special or one-time events
- » Public or private schools
- » Endowment funds
- » Art exhibits
- » Cultural arts productions, with the exception of funding costs associated with creating original works
- » Economic development projects
- » Hospitals and universities for internal programs
- » Matching grants (unless local dollars are needed to fulfill a condition for a state or federal grant)
- » Multi-year or large-dollar requests (unless they are Grants Committee and Governing Board initiatives)
- » Publications, including books, reports and/or research papers

What We Generally Fund

Capacity-Building Grants

The Dayton Foundation's discretionary grants support projects that provide for more efficient use of community resources; promote coordination, cooperation and sharing among organizations; and reduce the duplication of services in our community. Through this process, we aim to strengthen not-for-profit agencies and institutions by reducing operating costs, increasing public financial support and/or improving internal management. Our goal is to help build organizational capacity so that the charity can work more efficiently and effectively and raise more dollars.

Examples of Funded Grants

- » Strategic marketing studies
- » Community needs assessments
- » Impact studies
- » Software for development/fundraising programs

Capital Campaign or Capital Improvement Grants

To help an organization expand services and capacity

Examples of Capital Campaign or Improvement Grants

- » Capital campaign projects, including the purchase of real estate, construction, renovation and furnishings (Please note: A feasibility study for the capital campaign must have been completed for a nonprofit organization to be eligible to receive a discretionary grant.)
- » Hard goods, such as special equipment, a bus or a walk-in cooler (Please note: There is a special van/bus policy that must be reviewed by the applicant. The policy can be found at <https://www.daytonfoundation.org/discretionary-grants>.)

- » Office relocation expenses
- » Technology upgrades (Discretionary grants do not fund computer hardware, such as desktop computers or printers.)

Special Projects or Program Expansion Grants

Grants may be awarded to fund new projects or initiatives, or to provide seed funding for strategic growth or an expansion of an existing project or initiative to help an organization test or demonstrate new approaches and techniques for solving important community problems. They also may be awarded to help established organizations launch new projects for special purposes that could be representing a unique and unduplicated opportunity and meeting a significant community need, or to promote volunteer participation and citizen involvement in community affairs.

Examples of Special Projects or Program Expansion Grants

- » Opening of additional adult literacy education site
- » New afterschool reading program for children and parents
- » Strategic growth plan and implementation
- » Urban redevelopment of community and education garden
- » New nature preschool programming
- » Creation of health education and services for at-risk populations

Discretionary Grants Program

Discretionary grants are for local, nonprofit organizations in need of funding for projects, program expansions, capital improvements or capacity building that will begin after the funding decision date. Discretionary grants are not for ongoing operations.

- » Discretionary grant requests range from \$7,500 to \$75,000. Typically, the Grants Committee awards grants for no more than 25 percent of a total project budget, not to exceed \$75,000; however, it reserves the right to increase or decrease the amount awarded if circumstances warrant.
- » The grant cycle takes place over a three-month time frame. Projects may not begin before the funding decision date.

FY2027 Funding Cycles

All applications and Requests For Information (RFIs) are due by 4:00 p.m. on the deadline.

Funding Cycle	Application Deadline	Proposal Review	Funding Decision
1st Cycle	June 29, 2026	August	September 9, 2026
2nd Cycle	October 2, 2026	November	December 9, 2026
3rd Cycle	January 5, 2027	February	March 10, 2027

How to Apply for a Grant

- » The first step in the application process is to submit an application at <https://daytonfoundation.my.site.com/GrantApplication/s>. As a reference, a PDF of this form is available at <https://www.daytonfoundation.org/discretionary-grants>.
- » The application provides the Foundation with an in-depth understanding of your funding request. After the reviewed, if the Grants Committee decides to approve or decline your request, an email

notification will be sent. If the Committee decides to table your request, a Request For Information email will be sent asking for additional information. RFIs will be reviewed in the following cycle.

Guidelines

- » Only one application per organization per grant cycle may be submitted for consideration so that we can help as many not-for-profit organizations as possible.
- » If an application is denied, the organization may not apply for the same project again.
- » It is expected that an organization will have additional committed funders for the project/campaign.
- » Organizations that are funded are eligible to apply again after the grant funds have been paid and the final report has been submitted and approved. *Please note:* If an organization's final report is past due and no attempt has been made by the organization to extend the final report deadline, the organization will become ineligible to apply for a grant from the Foundation for a period of two years after the report has been submitted.
- » Organizations receiving a capital campaign or capital improvement grant for new construction should work with Tania Arseculeratne, senior Community Engagement officer, to make arrangements for a site visit once the final report has been submitted and approved. A site visit will be scheduled approximately one year from the final report approval date and will help Foundation staff see the completed project, as well as discuss the impact to date and ongoing/future plans to further increase the project's impact.

Discretionary Grants Program Survey

We value your opinion. We kindly ask you to complete a brief survey available online at <https://forms.office.com/r/3UY8V789R2> to help the Foundation improve its grants award process.