



The Dayton
Foundation
We help you help others.

Grant Programs for Nonprofit Organizations

Discretionary Grants Information
2022

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, grant orientations are offered in November and June. Please visit www.daytonfoundation.org/orienreg.html to register for an upcoming orientation. Attending a grants orientation is not required to apply for a grant but is encouraged.

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 (established for at least two years and have a track record of sustainability) or have a fiscal agent with such status;
- benefit citizens in the Dayton Region;
- address needs that are not met fully by existing organizational or community resources;
- demonstrate systemic collaboration; and
- demonstrate commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion in organizational strategic plans, policies or other documents such as an equity statement.

For more information, please review self-assessment by [Standards for Excellence Institution](#) to see how to advance diversity, equity and inclusion internally and externally. Please note, in most cases, equity statement, policy or commitment is **different from the employee non-discrimination policy**. To review The Dayton Foundation's diversity, equity and inclusion commitment, please visit <https://bit.ly/3yoXuuS>.

What We Look for in a Project in General

- 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; and
- size and potential impact of the project.

What We Generally Do Not Fund

- general organizational operations and ongoing programs
- projects that are narrowly focused in geography, impact and number of participants
- 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, research papers

What We Generally Fund Capacity-Building Grants

<p>To provide for more efficient use of community resources, promote coordination, cooperation and sharing among organizations and reduce the duplication of services in our community.</p> <p>To strengthen not-for-profit agencies and institutions by reducing operating costs, increasing public financial support and/or improving internal management.</p> <p>To help build organizational capacity so that the charity can work more efficiently and effectively and raise more dollars.</p>	<p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • technical support to explore significant collaborations or mergers with other not-for-profit organizations • community needs assessment • impact study • strategic marketing study • software for fund development and management programs (online giving; customer relationship management) • organizational capacity building (fund development; financial management; long-range strategic planning; Board development; leadership development; succession planning; staff training; volunteer management; evaluation planning; measuring outcomes and impact; etc.)
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Capital Campaign or Capital Improvement Grants

<p>To help an organization expand services and capacity.</p>	<p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • capital campaign projects, including the purchase of real estate, construction, renovation and furnishings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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 walk-in cooler or a bus. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PLEASE NOTE: There is a special van/bus policy that must be reviewed by the applicant. The policy can be found at www.daytonfoundation.org/trintent.html OR at https://www.daytonfoundation.org/how2app.html • office relocation expenses • technology upgrades <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PLEASE NOTE: Discretionary grants DO NOT fund computer hardware, such as desktop computers or printers.
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Special Projects or Program Expansion Grants

<p>To fund new projects or initiatives, 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.</p> <p>To help established organizations launch new projects for special purposes, representing a unique and unduplicated opportunity and meeting a significant community need.</p> <p>To promote volunteer participation and citizen involvement in community affairs.</p>	<p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • opening of additional adult literacy education sites • new after school reading program for children and parents • strategic growth plan and implementation • urban redevelopment of community garden and education garden • new nature preschool programming • creation of health education and services for at-risk populations
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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 six-month time frame. Projects may not begin before the funding decision date.

2022 Funding Cycles

All Letters of Intent (LOI) and grant applications are due by 4:00 p.m. on the deadline date.

Funding Cycle	LOI Deadline	Application Deadline	Proposal Review	Funding Decision
1 st Cycle	January 7, 2022	March 18, 2022	May	June 8, 2022
2 nd Cycle	July 8, 2022	September 30, 2022	November	December 14, 2022

How to Apply for a Grant

- The first step in the application process is to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) which can be downloaded at <https://www.daytonfoundation.org/how2app.html>.
- The LOI provides the Foundation with an overview of your funding request. After the Grants Committee has reviewed your LOI and determined that your project falls within our funding guidelines, you will be sent a full grant application and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Form.
 - As a reference, a PDF of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Form can be found on The Dayton Foundation's website at <https://www.daytonfoundation.org/how2app.html>.

Guidelines

- Only one LOI per organization per grant cycle may be submitted for consideration so that we can help as many not-for-profits as possible.
- If an LOI 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 for a period of two years after the report is submitted.
- Organizations receiving a capital campaign or capital improvement grant for new construction should work with Tania Arseculeratne, 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 a year from the final report approval date. A visit will be helpful for Foundation staff to see the completed project site and discuss the impact of the project to date as well as ongoing/future plans that might further increase the impact of the project.

Discretionary Grants Program Survey

- As an important part of improving our services and processes, we are adding a survey to collect information from our applicants and grantees. Once a decision has been made, applicants and grantees are encouraged to provide feedback anonymously by completing the discretionary grants survey available at <https://forms.office.com/r/3UY8V789R2>. Staff periodically reviews feedback and makes adjustments to guidelines and processes accordingly.