

Grant Description

The Activate Lancaster County Program will empower local communities throughout Lancaster County with training and resources to effectively utilize community centered design (CCD) principles to create inclusive and thriving communities, using a unique approach that emboldens local residents. We seek community partners who are passionate about bringing change to diverse areas of Lancaster County, demonstrate commitment to learn about CCD principles, and are dedicated to deep listening and relationship building to make decisions with, rather than for, the community they serve.

Four grant
awards
\$5,000

The Cohort Experience



Community Benefit Organizations (CBOs) will assemble five member teams who will engage in a five session workshop series. This series will be facilitated by a combination of Community Foundation staff members and outside consultants who have experience using CCD to enhance communities. Teams should include at least one member from the CBO applicant, and can include other CBO partners, board members, municipal leaders, or community members interested in engaging in this work. The objective of the cohort will be to learn about community centered design to identify community challenges to tackle, and provide a mutually supportive environment from which localized projects can be launched. We ask that cohort members come ready to learn and without preconceived ideas as to where this process will lead their community.

Human Centered Design vs. Community Centered Design

Human Centered Design

Human centered design (HCD) is a problem-solving method that seeks heavy input from end users throughout the entirety of the design process. HCD was initially focused on developing high quality consumer products that precisely fit the user's wants and needs. A team of designers works intensively with groups of end-users—frequently leading to innovation and better products on the market. As it became apparent that human centered design has proven to be an effective strategy in developing consumer products, some organizations began to try out the human centered design process with the goal of building stronger communities and solving social problems by closely involving and listening to the “end-user” residents.

Community Centered Design

We believe that deep listening to residents—to the point where residents drive the community building process—is essential to success, but that the most effective process will vary a bit from place to place. While human centered design lays out guiding principles, local communities have the flexibility to use certain elements of the process and adjust others as the local environment dictates. For these reasons, we are beginning to call this work “community centered design.”



Activate Lancaster County Info Session

April 9, 2020

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Community Foundation offices

Register at:

LancFound.org/grants

Eligibility and Application Process

Eligibility

Applications must come from current 501(c)(3) CBOs registered with (or exempt from) the PA Bureau of Charitable Organizations, have an audit or financial review (less than 12 months old) and a current Form 990. For this program, we are looking for a CBO to be the official applicant, but we encourage your team to include other voices from your city, township, borough, school district, etc.

Please refer to www.LancFound.org/grants for further eligibility details.

Application Process



1. Complete the Letter of Intent (LOI) in the grant portal by **July 14, 2020**. An LOI will provide: 1) basic organizational information, and 2) a brief description of a project concept.
2. After Community Foundation staff approve an LOI, we will provide access to the full application through the same grant portal.
3. Complete the application by final deadline, **July 21, 2020**. Refer to timeline on pg. 3 for a full list of important dates.

Evaluation Criteria

Please note that this is not a typical grant application, in which we ask for a defined project and a budget. You are applying to be part of a learning cohort, and funding will be made available for a project that comes as a result of the learning that takes place. Your application will be evaluated on the following items:

- **Team Composition** – Who will be part of the team? What is the team’s experience working in the community? Are differing and diverse perspectives represented?
- **Readiness** – Are team members able to commit to the learning process? Is the community ready to engage in a new, perhaps unfamiliar process? Does the applying CBO have buy-in from the local community? Are diverse community members ready to engage?
- **Support Structure** – Is the applicant organization working with partners who have resources to bring? Are municipal leaders supportive of this approach? Does at least one organization have agency to make decisions and leverage resources to move projects forward?



Application and Grant Timeline



Application Timeline

March 3: Application Opens

June 30: Draft applications due for staff feedback (optional).

*Drafts saved but not submitted will **NOT** be considered for feedback.

July 14: • LOI Deadline

- For applications submitted for staff feedback, on or before this date, we will return your application back to “draft” status with comments included and you can make any final revisions.

July 21: Final Applications Due @ 11:59 pm



Grant Timeline

Award Notification (Yes or No): September 18, 2020 by 5:00 pm

Funding Period: September 18, 2020 – September 18, 2021

Cohort Workshop Timeline & Reporting

Workshops: 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm @ Community Foundation

- **October 20, 2020** – The CCD Process; Identify Community Challenges; How to Research. In between meetings: Community research (interviews, etc.).
- **January 19, 2021** – Glean Insights; Ask “How Might We” questions. In between meetings: Community feedback “How might we?” questions.
- **March 23, 2021** – Identify best concepts to report back to community. In between meetings: Share updated concepts with residents, gather feedback.
- **May 25, 2021** – Identify one project to pilot, create pilot plan. After meeting: create budget for pilot plan for \$5,000.
- **August 17, 2021** – Report out on results & celebration!

Completion report: Due October 30, 2021

*Workshop attendance is required. Failure to maintain grant requirements may affect your ability to apply for future grants.

