



2026 GRANT OPPORTUNITIES & RESOURCES

LANCASTER COUNTY
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION



**CREATING
OPPORTUNITIES
TODAY**

**TO SHAPE
OUR SHARED
TOMORROW**

WITH
**INTEGRITY
RELATIONSHIPS
EQUITY
COURAGE
OPTIMISM**



24 WEST KING ST. SUITE 201
LANCASTER, PA 17603

717 397 1629
LANCFOUND.ORG



BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER TO CARE ABOUT WHAT WE ALL HAVE IN COMMON: LANCASTER COUNTY

Since 1924, philanthropists from all walks of life have trusted the Lancaster County Community Foundation with their donations. This money has been pooled and invested strategically for long-term growth and steadily yields dollars year after year. Now, 102 years later, the community's endowment holds more than \$265 million in assets that create ripples of impact through grants, scholarships, partnership connections, leadership development, organizational resources, and more.

You bring the innovative ideas for meeting community needs.

We bring the power of endowment to support your work.

**Together we can
shape a resilient,
vibrant future for
Lancaster County.**

GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Additional information on all grants and resources, as well as complete eligibility requirements and application information, can be found at LANCFOUND.ORG/GRANTS.

MEET THE PROGRAMS TEAM:



**DAVE
KOSER**

Director of Programs
dkoser@lancfound.org
(ext. 112)



**FRAN
RODRIGUEZ**

Senior Program Officer
frodriguez@lancfound.org
(ext. 115)



**RACHAEL
HARTMAN**

Program Officer
rhartman@lancfound.org
(ext. 110)

CYCLE 1 GRANT DEADLINES

Do you want to receive feedback on your application from Foundation staff prior to the final deadline?

YES

Submit eligibility screen by **APRIL 8**

Submit draft application by **APRIL 15**

Staff will provide feedback by **MAY 6**

NO

Submit eligibility screen by **MAY 6**

SUBMIT APPLICATION BY MAY 13

CYCLE 2 GRANT DEADLINES

Do you want to receive feedback on your application from Foundation staff prior to the final deadline?

YES

Submit eligibility screen by **JUNE 10**

Submit draft application by **JUNE 17**

Staff will provide feedback by **JULY 8**

NO

Submit eligibility screen by **JULY 8**

SUBMIT APPLICATION BY JULY 15

CYCLE 1:

PASSION GRANTS

Deadlines: See page 4



ADA F. HARR FUND

Up to \$33,000

For home health or custodial care for people impacted by illness or disability.

ANNA C. & W. FRANKLIN RESSLER FUND

Up to \$30,000

For community projects based in Eastern Lancaster County (defined geographically by ELANCO, Conestoga Valley, and Pequea Valley school districts).

BETTER LANCASTER FUND

Up to \$25,000

Supports early childhood development from birth to age five.

LANCASTER ENVIRONMENTAL FUND

Up to \$33,000

Supports environmental protection, conservation, and education.

PATRICK KENNEY, JR. MEMORIAL FUND & K.L.

SHIRK MEMORIAL FUND

Up to \$15,000

Supports programs that fight hate and bigotry while promoting social justice.

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS FUNDS

Visual Arts up to \$37,000

Performing Arts up to \$37,000

The Florence Starr Taylor Fund, Sam and Verda Taylor Fund, Elizabeth and Alvin Lewis Fund, Eloise C. Aurand Fund, and Lancaster Arts & Culture Fund support visual and performing arts projects.

JOHN J. SNYDER, JR. FUND FOR HISTORICAL PRESERVATION

Up to \$117,000

For the “unglamorous things” necessary to sustain documented historic structures.

This fund has a separate application.

CYCLE 2:

LANCASTER THRIVES TOGETHER

GRANT AMOUNT: \$10,000 - \$50,000

Deadlines: See page 4



Building on an impactful grant program introduced in 2025, Lancaster Thrives Together is a \$500,000 competitive grant opportunity for community benefit organizations (CBOs) serving Lancaster County residents. Organizational grants will range from \$10,000 - \$50,000, with a limit of one application per CBO.

In 2026, the program will focus on initiatives centered on education, upskilling, and job training and placement - specifically as strategies to move our most economically vulnerable neighbors toward achievement of long-term self-sufficiency.

Lancaster County's Racial Equity Profile (see page 12) highlights a persistent education gap as a key driver of disproportionate

challenges faced by underserved communities, which are more likely to experience unemployment and ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) conditions. To address these disparities, we seek career advancement projects demonstrating strong community leadership, systems-level change, and innovation. Our priority is funding solutions designed for lasting impact rather than short-term fixes.

CYCLE 2:

THE EQUITY FUND

GRANT AMOUNT: \$5,000-\$15,000

Deadlines: See page 4

NEW GRANT!



Equity is an issue that concerns the well-being and success of all residents in the county.

– An Equity Profile of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania (2023)

In 2026, the Equity Fund will invest in the resilience of organizations that are working to address systemic barriers facing Lancaster County residents. This grant program supports capacity-building initiatives such

as training on culturally responsive practices, development of inclusive policies and procedures, community engagement strategies that center underrepresented voices, and organizational assessments to identify and address equity gaps.

PARTNER OPPORTUNITIES

AASTHA HORIZONS GIVING CIRCLE

Grants between

\$1,000 - \$5,000

Applications due July 15

“Aastha” is a word in the Indian language meaning belief, faith, trust, hope for a better tomorrow. Like the sunrise over the horizon which symbolizes hope and a new day, the Aastha Horizons Fund creates significant impact and addresses community needs while providing Asian-Indian American community members a channel for collective philanthropy.

Established by a group of local Asian-Indian professionals, the fund reflects their care for Lancaster County and commitment to supporting it for the long-term. The fund launched with support from this group of founding advisors and invites contributions that will support urgent community issues as well as build resources that will continue into the future.

Visit AasthaHorizons.org to learn more and apply.

Deepa Balepur

Aastha Horizons—Advisory Group Member

Deepa@compass-pa.com

717-808-3531

LANCASTER CLEAN WATER FUND

Grants up to \$20,000

Applications due July 1

The Lancaster Clean Water Fund supports education, outreach, engagement, monitoring, and implementation projects that improve Lancaster’s water quality through collaboration and creativity. Innovative ideas to build capacity in, and awareness of, clean water work are welcome!

Start your application at LancFound.org/grants

Alex Cooper

Lancaster Clean Water Partners—Program Coordinator

acooper@lancastercleanwaterpartners.com

717-723-9195

PARTNER OPPORTUNITIES



HIGH FOUNDATION FUND

In 2021, the High Foundation Fund was established with an extremely generous \$65 million gift from the High Foundation. As a donor advised fund, grants are made at the discretion of, and aligned with the grantmaking principles of, the High Foundation.

Learn more and apply at HighFoundation.org

LANCASTER ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS (LAAPI) GIVING CIRCLE

Lancaster Asian American & Pacific Islander (LAAPI) Giving Circle celebrates, connects, and advocates for the Asian American and PACific Islander community in Lancaster County. The fund will help with hosting events throughout the year to help raise cultural awareness, provide educational opportunities to learn about our diverse community, and elevate the AAPI community.

Liana Fan
Treasurer
LancasterAAPI@gmail.com

LGBTQ+ GIVING CIRCLE

Grants between
\$2,500 - \$25,000
Applications due May 1

In 2026, the LGBTQ+ Giving Circle will grant more than \$125,000 in support of CBOs working to raise visibility and address the needs of LGBTQ+ communities within Lancaster County. Priority will be given to proposals that center the most vulnerable LGBTQ+ communities and provide support for those most affected by systemic injustices such as racism, homophobia, transphobia, and misogyny.

Start your application at LancFound.org/Grants

REPARATIONS ACTION FUND FOR TOMORROW

The Reparations Action Fund for Tomorrow's (RAFFT) mission is to drive transformational restorative justice initiatives in Lancaster that address historical inequities in the African American/Black community. Through targeted financial investments, community education, and collaborative partnerships, RAFFT aims to uplift voices, restore dignity, and create pathways to economic and social well-being. RAFFT is dedicated to fostering a community that inspires action, accountability, and lasting change. Grants will be launched on Juneteenth (June 19, 2026).

Contact rafftlancc@gmail.com for more information.

PARTNER OPPORTUNITIES



THE FIG TREE

Grants of \$5,000
Applications due May 1

For more than two decades, Fig has been dedicated to supporting entrepreneurs and strengthening the vitality of Lancaster City. The Fig Tree is a donor advised fund that awards \$5,000 grants to Lancaster City small businesses to support growth through improvements, expansion, and innovative ideas. The Fig Tree reflects Fig's commitment to investing in big ideas and ensuring the local small business community continues to flourish.

Visit figlanaster.com/the-fig-tree to learn more and apply

Merritt Gohn

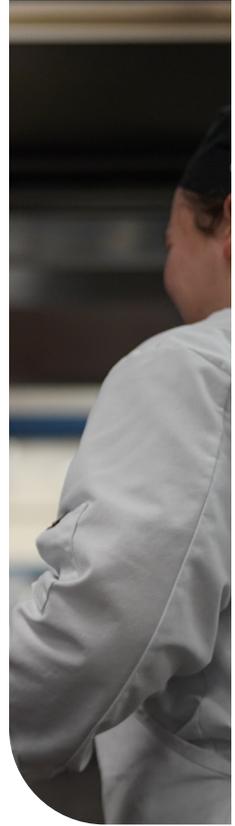
Fig Industries—Studio Administrator
merritt@figindustries.com
717-394-7737

WEAVER AWARDS

Stay tuned for more details

The Aspen Institute's Weave: The Social Fabric Project is coming to Lancaster County!

Weaver Awards connect, honor, and invest in our neighbors who are serving our shared community and creating meaningful connection. Lancaster County has been chosen as a partner in this national effort to strengthen trust and belonging at the local level. We look forward to sharing more details in the coming weeks.



SCHOLARSHIPS

**APPLICATIONS OPEN:
NOVEMBER 2, 2026**

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE:
FEBRUARY 22, 2027**

Thanks to visionary donors with a passion for elevating the next generation, each year the community's endowment awards scholarships to help advance the education of promising Lancaster County scholars. Our scholarship program supports students pursuing studies in a variety of fields including healthcare, education, business, technology, the trades, and the arts.

High school seniors and college undergraduates who reside in Lancaster County or have graduated from a Lancaster County high school are encouraged to apply when applications open on November 2 at LancFound.org/Grants.

Rachael Hartman
Program Officer (ext. 110)
rhartman@lancfound.org

ORGANIZATIONAL RESOURCES

THE PANO NAVIGATOR

The Navigator is a curated, Pennsylvania-specific resource hub designed to help nonprofit leaders, staff, and board members find trusted tools, guidance, and training without having to search dozens of websites.

To view resources, visit: navigator.pano.org

LANCASTER COUNTY RACIAL EQUITY PROFILE

In 2022, the community's endowment was part of supporting the creation of the Lancaster County Racial Equity Profile. Now, for the first time, Lancaster County has data to back up what so many in our community have already known and experienced first-hand: people of color have not had fair and equal access to opportunities, leading to an unequal quality of life. The information is free and accessible to all, and we hope you will explore the data as you apply it to your organization's work. A summary of the report is available in Spanish.

To view the report visit: wcalancaster.org/repgroup

SDOL EQUITY DASHBOARD

A new data dashboard that monitors progress on several key equity indicators has recently been made available. CBOs working with students in the School District of Lancaster are invited to explore this new resource.

To view the dashboard, visit:
sdlancaster.org/discover-sdol/diversity/equity-dashboard

EXTRAGIVE



Since the launch of ExtraGive, 40,000 people have come together to raise more than \$120 million in support of causes across Lancaster County.

In 2026, ExtraGive will continue to focus on creating a fun, easy way for donors to impact our shared community while inviting them to consider supporting your work in the future through legacy giving. Be on the lookout for info sessions and an extensive collection of materials you can use to engage your community leading up to the big day, including social media assets, print materials, signs, and more!



TRACY CUTLER
Executive Vice President
tcutler@lanfound.org
(ext. 103)

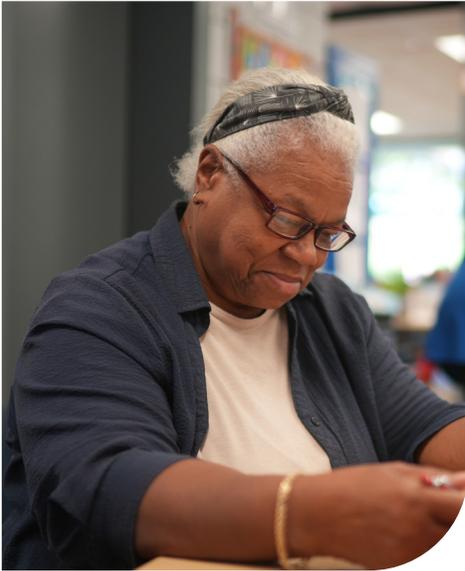


VALENTINA SCHADE
Communications Manager
vschade@lanfound.org
(ext. 113)

**SAVE
THE DATE!**

NOV 20

PHILANTHROPIC SERVICES



The Philanthropic Services team is here to provide information and support to organizations and individuals exploring ways to give. Our team works with the community to bring dollars, funds, and people together to make Lancaster County a vibrant place, now and into the future.



ASHLINN MASLAND-SARANI

Director of Philanthropic Services
amaslandsarani@lanfound.org
(ext. 118)



CLINTON BUBLITZ

Senior Philanthropic Officer
cbublitz@lanfound.org
(ext. 122)



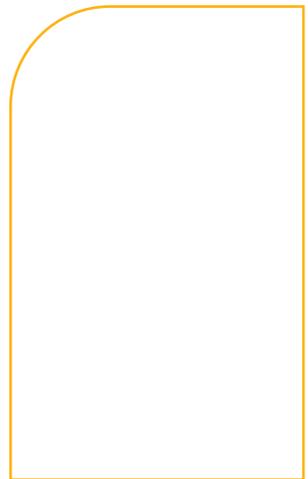
MARIE CLEAVES ROTHACKER

Senior Philanthropic Officer
mcleaves@lanfound.org
(ext. 121)



PRAKASH KHADKA

Finance and Development Assistant
pkhadka@lanfound.org
(ext. 107)



PHILANTHROPIC SERVICES

HOW DOES AN ORGANIZATIONAL ENDOWMENT WORK?

Endowments are a tool to provide consistent, long-term funding for your organization. Assets (cash, stocks, real estate, and more) that are donated to your organization through the Community Foundation are pooled and invested. Once a year, 4% of the total is available to spend or be reinvested. The spendable amount is unrestricted—it can be spent in whatever way serves your organization best.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

When you're connected with us through endowment, you're in good company with over 70 other community benefit organizations in Lancaster County.

Having an organizational endowment with the Community Foundation is a way to outsource endowment as part of your overall fundraising strategy. We take care of donor acknowledgements, oversight of investments through PNC Institutional Asset Management, a dedicated webpage for online giving, and more.

All organizations with an endowment of \$50,000 or more are also able to open a Flex Fund, which allows access to the full amount in that fund at any time for discretionary use.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Any 501(c)(3) organization is eligible to open an endowment at the Lancaster County Community Foundation. However, this won't be the best fit for every organization. Things to consider include financial stability, an established donor base, and board commitment. There is no minimum contribution to establish a fund, and distributions will be made once the fund reaches \$10,000.

WHAT ARE OTHER OPTIONS BESIDES ENDOWMENT FOR COMMUNITY BENEFIT ORGANIZATIONS?

If endowment isn't the right fit for your organization, there are a range of other options. Board members and individual donors can open funds at the Community Foundation to benefit your organization, again with ease of administration by us.

DONOR ADVISED FUND (DAF)

When a donor or board member opens a DAF at the Community Foundation, they can use it to send money to your organization and others throughout the year. This type of fund is one of the most flexible giving options available at the Community Foundation.

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY (CGA)

A CGA is planned giving option that allows the donor to receive a fixed income stream for life while making a significant contribution to an organization of their choice. At the Community Foundation, CGAs convert to an endowed fund for your organization after the donor passes away.

LEGACY GIVING

Leaving a legacy gift means making a plan today to leave money to an organization or cause a donor cares about in the future. Planned gifts are an opportunity for people from all income levels to leave a lasting impact on their community without changing their current lifestyle. There is no minimum amount to include an organization in a will, no out-of-pocket cost, and a will can be changed at any time.

For questions about growing an existing endowment or talking with donors about planned giving, reach out to Marie Cleaves Rothacker, Senior Philanthropic Officer or visit lancfound.org/giving.



UNLEASH THE GOOD INSIDE YOU.



LANCASTER COUNTY
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

24 WEST KING ST. SUITE 201
LANCASTER, PA 17603

LANCFOUND.ORG
717-397-1629

