

2026 Passion Grants

Thanks to visionary donors over time, the community's endowment converts passion into impact throughout Lancaster County.

This year, **Passion Grants** will activate \$210,000 in support of a broad range of impact areas including human services, the environment, human rights & inclusion, the arts, early child development, and projects in Eastern Lancaster County.

Grants range from **\$7,500 – \$37,000**.

Virtual Office Hours

Questions? Join the Programs Team for a Virtual Office Hours session.

March 18, 10:00 – 11:30 am → [Register Here](#)

April 16, 10:00 – 11:30 am → [Register Here](#)

Eligibility Requirements

Applicant organization must:

- Serve Lancaster County residents without discrimination.
- Have current 501(c)(3) designation from the IRS.
- Be registered with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Charitable Organizations unless otherwise exempt per the Institutions of Purely Public Charity Act.
- Complete IRS Form 990 annually.
- Have an annual audit or a financial review by an independent CPA within the last 12 months.
- Be in good standing with all existing awards and contracts with the Lancaster County Community Foundation.
- Provide organizational Non-Discrimination Policy meeting all federal requirements as it applies to your type of organization ([FAQs](#)).
- Be aware of the Community Foundation's [Anti-Hate Policy](#).

Please note the Community Foundation's competitive grants will not typically fund:

- Creation of a new organization
- Schools
- Capital campaigns/capital costs

- Political campaigns
- Expenses incurred before the grant is awarded
- Cemetery associations
- Religious causes that further a specific belief/agenda

Visit our website for additional information about eligibility: [Eligibility Requirements](#)

Application Process

1. Submit an Eligibility Screen (formerly Letter of Intent) on our online [Grant Portal](#) by **11:59 pm on Wednesday, May 6**. You will be asked to provide basic organizational information and a brief description of your proposed project.
2. Within three (3) business days, Community Foundation staff will review your Eligibility Screen. Once your eligibility has been confirmed, you will be given access to the grant application.
3. Submit your application by the final deadline, **11:59 pm on Wednesday, May 13**.

Feedback & Important Dates

If you want to receive feedback from Foundation staff on your application, please observe these deadlines:

- April 8 – Submit Eligibility Screen
- April 15 – Submit draft application
- May 6 – Foundation staff will provide application feedback
- May 13 – Submit final application

If you do not want to receive feedback (or miss the deadlines above):

- May 6 – Submit Eligibility Screen
- May 13 – Submit application

Additional important dates:

- July 17 – Award notifications issued; Grant funding period begins
- July 17, 2026 – July 17, 2027 – Duration of grant funding period
- August 17, 2027 – Grant impact report due

Passion Grant Descriptions

- **Ada F. Harr Fund** (\$10,000 - \$33,000): For home health or custodial care for people impacted by illness or disability.
- **Anna C. & W. Franklin Ressler Fund** (\$10,000 - \$30,000): For community projects based in Eastern Lancaster County. Specifically Eastern Lancaster County (ELANCO), Pequea Valley, and Conestoga Valley School Districts.
- **Better Lancaster Fund** (\$10,000 - \$25,000): Supports early childhood development from birth to age five.
- **Lancaster Environmental Fund** (\$10,000 - \$33,000): Supports environmental protection, conservation, and education.
- **Patrick Kenney, Jr. Memorial Education Fund & K.L. Shirk Memorial Fund** (\$7,500 - \$15,000): Supports programs that fight hate and bigotry while promoting social justice.
- **Performing Arts Funds** (\$10,000 - \$37,000): Funding from the Sam and Verda Taylor Fund and the Elizabeth and Alvin Lewis Fund supports the performing arts.
- **Visual Arts Funds** (\$10,000 - \$37,000): Funding from the Florence Starr Taylor Fund, Elizabeth and Alvin Lewis Fund, Eloise C. Aurand Fund, and Lancaster Arts & Culture Fund supports the visual arts.

Application Questions

- **Vision**
 - How will this project change the community? Describe both your vision and your approach. (1,500 characters)
- **Equity & Inclusion**
 - Describe your intentions to create and/or advance JEDI practices (justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion) at the organization or project level. If applicable, how does this project address specific issues identified in [Lancaster's Equity Profile](#)? (1,500 characters)
- **Implementation Plan**
 - Describe how you will implement this project, including project timeline, key milestones, and who will be responsible for each phase. You may present this as a bulleted list or narrative. (1,500 characters)
 - Outline how grant funds will be used. (1,500 characters)

- **Goals & Achievements**

- What are your project goals? How will you evaluate your results and/or achievements? (2,000 characters)

- **Collaboration**

- How is your project supporting collaboration in our community? Mention potential project partners and their respective roles. (1,500 characters)

Evaluation Criteria

Community grant reviewers will use the following questions to evaluate and score applications:

- **Vision** – To what extent does the response demonstrate a vision for change in our community?
- **Equity & Inclusion** – To what extent does the response demonstrate intentional practices of JEDI (JEDI: Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) at the organizational or project level?
- **Implementation Plan** – To what extent does the response outline an effective plan for project implementation?
- **Goals & Achievements** - To what extent does the response outline and evaluate attainable and impactful goals?
- **Collaboration** - To what extent does the response include collaboration with community partners and initiatives?

Community Foundation Staff Contacts



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