



## Shaping Tomorrow Awards

In 2024, the Lancaster County Community Foundation celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary! For the past 100 years, the Community Foundation has supported the county in small and large ways to help it become such a wonderful place to live, work, and play in our neighborhoods, the beautiful countryside, and within our bustling city. We know Lancaster County is only great when all of us thrive.

To celebrate 100 years of history, we want to catalyze ideas that will move Lancaster County forward for the next 100! Think of it as “angel investing” for our shared future.

Whether these ideas are dreaming big or starting small, we want to support the very best projects that focus on **4 broad categories: Creative Expression, Well-Being and Vibrancy, Our Planet, and Next Generation**. We envision supporting equitable and inclusive projects that embolden the hopes and dreams of all our residents—acknowledging this hasn’t always been the case. We also want to support innovative practices that will propel these concepts forward.

We will accept one application per Community Benefit Organization in total. Projects must benefit Lancaster County residents exclusively.

We are allocating \$250,000 for each of the four categories. We will accept applications at three levels:

- Level 1 – Projects asking for \$5,000-\$14,999
- Level 2 – Projects asking for \$15,000-\$49,999
- Level 3 – Projects asking for \$50,000 - \$100,000. For large projects, we ask for **collaboration** between two or more organizations. One would be a 501(c)(3) community benefit organization, and the other could be a CBO, a for-profit entity, or a municipality.

- 1. Creative Expression** (Sam and Verda Taylor, Florence Starr Taylor grants for 2024 will be added to this). Recognizing the arts contribute to healthy communities and local economies, we also know talented folks can educate, inspire, and bring about lasting change. We will support projects related to visual arts, performing arts, music, dance, poetry, spoken word, and film that promote diverse voices, cultural understanding, community murals and artistic innovation.

2. **Well-Being and Vibrancy** How might we put Lancaster County on the map as a place where people are physically, mentally, and financially healthy? We will support projects focused on mental health, healthcare access, nutrition, physical activity, elder care, and financial health.
3. **Our Planet** (Lancaster Environmental Fund grant for 2024 will be added to this) We know Lancaster County faces many unique environmental challenges simultaneously: our air quality is poor, our waterways are notorious for polluting the Chesapeake Bay, our tree cover is sparse, we need to save the bits of natural land that remain, and the unpredictability of our future climate threatens our agriculture. We are looking for the best ideas focused on things like land conservation, renewable energy, adaptation to climate change, biodiversity, and environmental education.
4. **Next Generation** We need to embolden and invest in the next generation of children and young adults, providing them with immense opportunities to lead. We are excited to support projects in education, skill development, and leadership development. Specific examples could include mentorship programs, scholarships, and social entrepreneurship training.

Virtual Information Meeting: Register at [www.lancfound.org/grants](http://www.lancfound.org/grants)

DATE: **September 28, 2023**

TIME: 1:30 pm

## Eligibility Summary

*Eligible applying organizations must meet the following requirements:*

- Serve Lancaster County\* residents without discrimination.
- Current 501(c)(3)\*\* designation from the IRS.
- Registered with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Charitable Organizations unless otherwise exempt per the Institutions of Purely Public Charity Act.
- Complete IRS Form 990 annually.
- Annual audit or a financial review by an independent CPA is within the last 12 months.
- 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](#).

## **Application Process**

**STAGE 1** - Complete Letter of Intent (LOI) in the grant portal at [Lancfound.org/grants](https://Lancfound.org/grants). The LOI provides basic organizational information and a brief description of your project concept. Stage 1 will also include a 2-3 minute video, submitted through the same portal, that introduces your concept, explains how it aligns with one of the four categories, and describes the impact the project will have in the community.

**STAGE 2** – The top 12 concepts per category will be selected by team of Community Foundation staff and board members. These 12 organizations will be invited to submit a full application by the final deadline as defined by category. The Community Foundation will not provide feedback on application drafts.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Award Timeline (Creative Expression & Well-Being)**

- Stage 1 opens: December 7, 2023
- Stage 1 Deadline: January 22, 2024
- Stage 2 Invitations sent: January 31, 2024
- Stage 2 Deadline: February 19, 2024
- Award notifications:
  - March 27 for Creative Expression
  - April 27 for Well-Being
- Grant funding period: as advised by applicant
- Completion Report due: as advised by applicant

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Award Timeline (Our Planet & Next Generation)**

- Stage 1 opens: June 3, 2024
- Stage 1 Deadline: July 22, 2024
- Stage 2 Invitations sent: July 31, 2024
- Stage 2 Deadline: August 19, 2024
- Award notifications:
  - September 28 for Next Generation
  - October 17 for Our Planet
- Grant funding period: as advised by applicant
- Completion Report due: as advised by applicant

## Application questions

- **Vision** – What is your project idea and how might it bring long-lasting change to Lancaster County? (2,000 characters)
- **Implementation Plan** – Describe the processes you will use to implement your project and how grant dollars will be spent. (2,000 characters)
- **Goals and Achievements** – What are your goals and how will you evaluate your achievements? (2,000 characters)
- **Innovation** - How does your strategy go beyond doing business as usual to create more impact? (2,000 characters)
- **Equity and Inclusion** – How is your organization creating practices of equity and inclusion with this project? If applicable, how does this project address issues identified in Lancaster’s Equity Profile? (2,000 characters)

## Evaluation Criteria

- **Vision** – To what extent does the application demonstrate a vision for change in the community?
- **Implementation Plan** – To what extent does the application account for the logistics necessary to achieve goals?
- **Goals and Achievements** – To what extent does the application outline and evaluate attainable and impactful goals?
- **Innovation** - To what extent does the application demonstrate new thinking needed to be effective in the long-term?
- **Equity and Inclusion** - To what extent does the organization demonstrate their commitment to equity and inclusion?

## FAQ

*Will the Community Foundation support things like overhead costs and building projects with these awards?* Yes! We want to support innovation and equity, and we recognize that these projects may take many different forms and will have different needs. We will also consider asks to support capital campaigns.

*Why is the Community Foundation requesting “equitable and inclusive” projects?* Recognizing certain groups of people (BIPOC, LGBTQ+, people with disabilities) have not been largely included and represented in many past projects, we feel it is imperative to do our part to ensure future projects create a sense of belonging for all residents.

*Why is the Community Foundation only allowing one proposal in total?* We expect to receive many applications, so we need to be aware of our capacity to evaluate the applications. We only anticipate being able to fund a fraction of the total number of applications.

*I’m an individual with a great idea for a project. What should I do?*

While we will not be making awards directly to individuals, we would encourage you to take your idea to a local community benefit organization who might be able to work with you to make your dream a reality.

## Office Hours

During the times listed below, we will be live on Zoom to address any frequently asked questions and to answer questions you may have. Please consider using this time to ask your questions.

Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86390430599>

October 20, 2023 10:00 – 11:00 am

November 10, 10:00 – 11:00 am

December 15, 10:00 – 11:00 am

March 14, 2024 10:00 – 11:00 am

April 19, 10:00 – 11:00 am

May 16, 10:00 – 11:00 am

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