



Community Foundation of Morgan County, Inc.

Capacity Grant Guidelines

The CFMC aims to enhance the quality of life for current and future Morgan County residents. Through competitive grants, we strive to partner with strong community organizations and help leverage resources to create lasting impact. The foundation aims to support creative approaches to community needs by providing grants which will benefit a wide range of people.

Capacity Grants help organizations become more efficient and effective. These grants help you do the work you are already doing. This includes materials, equipment, technology, and expenditures that provide for growing needs. Note that this is not just general operating support; these are specific one-time grants.

Tax-exempt organizations serving Morgan County residents are eligible to apply for **up to \$2,000** in Capacity Grant funding. Approximately \$25,000 has been set aside for this grant program each year. While there is no formal limitation on how often an organization can apply, we do strive to be good stewards of Capacity Grant funding and must consider the frequency of an organization's requests when making award determinations.

Applications are open on a rolling basis and are due by the 15th day of each month. If awarded, grantees can expect checks to be mailed by the 15th day of the following month. Applicants who do not receive funding will also be notified within 30 days.

Apply online at <https://goo.gl/JY4Y5h>.

We are happy to discuss your eligibility or provide feedback before you submit the final application. The online form will ask you to provide a narrative explanation of your request, a line-item budget for your request, an operating budget for your organization, a tax-exempt determination letter (when applicable), and a roster of key personnel and directors. We may contact applicants requesting more clarification or more detailed information.

Questions? Contact CFMC Program Officer Hannah Sitz at hsitz@cfmconline.org.

Please note that requests of more than \$10,000 can be made through our Impact Grant program. Applications for the next Impact Grant cycle will open late summer and are typically due mid-September.

The following aspects, among others, are considered when making all grant decisions:

- Does the application meet the eligibility requirements? Does it impact Morgan County?
- Does the request align with established CFMC funding priorities?
- Is there a clearly stated impact of the request? Is it feasible?
- Is the request unique from other existing services or opportunities in Morgan County?
- Does the organization collaborate and cooperate with other community institutions?
- Is the organization fiscally responsible?
- Can the organization obtain any additional funding needed?
- Can the organization sustain the program into the future, when applicable?
- Is the request proactive in addressing solutions to problems, rather than symptoms?

Tips for Strong Applications

- Partner with another agency or organization to leverage resources and areas of expertise
- Share existing metrics or evidence that show your current impact
- Look for less conventional ways to address issues or seek opportunities
- Revamp a current project or build on programs in other communities that are working
- Engage your stakeholders in the process of exploring new directions and opportunities; involve people with a variety of perspectives that might lead to novel ideas or solutions
- Determine the administrative costs associated with adequately monitoring program effectiveness, and include them in your proposal

Eligibility

What We Fund

- Non-profit organizations impacting Morgan County: We do approve grant applications from organizations whose headquarters are located outside the county if a significant number of persons who will be served reside in Morgan County. Only 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations and organizations that are exempt from filing for a 501(c)(3) status (units of government, school corporations, and religious organizations) are eligible. Organizations may submit multiple applications for different programs and may apply for different types of grants.
- Programs or projects requesting grant money to be spent within the November 1, 2016 through July 15, 2017 grant period (for Program Grants and Matching Grants).
- Organizations that enrich the social, civic, cultural, economic, and physical environment of Morgan County. This includes but is not limited to:
 - Arts and Culture
 - Citizenship
 - Economic Development
 - Education
 - Environment
 - Human Services
 - Recreation

What We Do Not Fund

- Individuals: Individuals wishing to apply must do so with the cooperation of a non-profit organization, and the organization must submit the application.
- Organizations with outstanding grant reports due to CFMC. Programs with open grants may still apply, but, if approved, no further funds will be issued towards that program until all prior grants are properly closed.
- Projects that do not serve Morgan County citizens
- Projects normally fully funded by units of local government
- Projects to build or fund an endowment
- Religious activities or programs that serve or appear to serve predominantly one denomination and not the community at large
- Political organizations or campaigns
- National and state fund raising efforts which do not directly benefit local agencies or chapters
- Projects that could be considered discriminatory
- Projects operated by for-profit companies