



GRANTS POLICY
Amended by the Board February 11, 2008

Philosophy

The Gunnison Valley is diverse economically, geographically, and demographically; it is connected by many common needs and interests. The Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley works with the community's many nonprofit organizations to facilitate a greater understanding of the interests of both and respond more effectively to local concerns and needs.

The Foundation funds nonprofits that work for the greater good of the region in the areas of arts and culture, community development, environment, education, human services, athletics, recreation, historical tradition and preservation and domestic animal welfare and protection. In distributing grant awards, the Foundation's mission is to exercise leadership on charitable issues while advancing the cause of philanthropy throughout the area and promoting effective delivery of services from nonprofit and community organizations.

The CFGV regularly receives grant requests that exceed the availability of funds. The Grant Selection Committee gives full consideration to all requests meeting the strategic priorities and funding guidelines of the Foundation, and decisions not to fund particular proposals are more likely to result from limited resources than to reflect upon the merits of the applicant or the worthiness of the proposal.

Mission

The Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley preserves and develops permanent resources to enrich the quality of life for people of Crested Butte, Gunnison, the upper Gunnison watershed and our neighbors.

The Foundation builds a lasting legacy by

- (a) creating an active community of donors, including permanent and part-time homeowners, and visitors, by helping them meet their charitable goals and promoting an understanding of how philanthropy meets the changing needs of our community;
- (b) providing appropriate quality and cost-effective service to donors and responsible stewardship for entrusted funds;
- (c) respecting and honoring the wishes of our donors;
- (d) strengthening nonprofit and community groups in the areas of art and culture, community development, environment, education, health, human services, athletics and recreation, domestic animal welfare and protection, and historical tradition and preservation;
- (e) encouraging volunteerism and community involvement; and
- (f) being the convener of choice where the needs and resources of the community are brought together.

Grant Selection Committee

The Grant Selection Committee consists of Board Members and Non-Board permanent and part-time area residents and is responsible for submitting recommendations to the Board of Directors. Through an impartial process, the committee will determine the merits of the requests; any committee member serving on the board of or employed in any way by a requesting program or organization will be excused from participation in discussions or recommendations concerning that particular request. The Board of Directors will review the recommendations of the Grant Selection Committee and make the final vote on said recommendations.

General Exclusions

In general, the Foundation does not grant funds to the following types of organizations or projects:

- Religious activities or projects that serve, or appear to serve, a specific religious group or denomination. If a proposal submitted by a church-based or similar organization is intended to serve a broad segment of the population as would a project of a comparable non-religious organization, the Foundation will consider the proposal on the same basis as proposals from other agencies.
- Political lobbying, political campaigns or legislative activities
- Projects already completed
- Debt retirement, deficit financing, reduction of an operating deficit, liquidating debt or replenishing resources used to pay for such purposes
- PR/Marketing
- National, state or local fundraising activities, i.e. annual fund drives, courtesy advertising, benefit tickets, telephone solicitations (general solicitation letters will not be acknowledged)
- Umbrella funding organizations that would distribute requested funds at their own discretion
- Individuals

Application Deadlines and Policies

- Applicants for funding must be tax exempt under the provisions of section 501(c)(3) and 170(b)(1)(a)(vi) of the Internal Revenue Code; these groups are nonprofits and government agencies performing charitable work.
- The Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley announces its grant cycles each year. Notices are provided to the local newspapers and radio stations and are posted on the Foundation's website, www.cfgv.org. It is the responsibility of the organization to request and use the current documents. Applications are generally available 6-8 weeks prior to the grant deadline.
- Complete applications must be received before 4:00 p.m. on the deadline date.
- The Grants Committee of the Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley will review all grants, establishing eligibility, and report on all applications to the CFGV Board of Directors
- Grantmaking policy is approved by the Board of Directors; grant award decisions are recommended to the Board by the Grants Committee. Final decisions are made by the Board of Directors.
- Under normal circumstances, only one request from an organization will be reviewed in a twelve month period.
- All grant recipients must report on the expenditure of grant funds and results of the project upon completion of the project and no later than the application deadline for the next grant cycle. A report format is available on the Foundation's website, www.cfgv.org.
- The Foundation prefers not to be the only funding source for a project; at the Board's discretion, grants may be issued as challenge grants to agencies to encourage community participation in proposed programs.
- Any funds not spent for the specific purpose of the grant must be returned to the Foundation and cannot be diverted to other uses without the express approval of the Foundation's Board of Directors.