



Community Fund Grant Guidelines

Defiance Area Foundation Community Fund grants are generally submitted through the GoApply portal on The Defiance Area Foundation website. These grants are thoroughly reviewed by the Grants Committee comprised of Members and Trustees. Recommendations are then made to the Board of Trustees, a group of more than 15 community leaders who each serve three-year terms. The principle of the fund has remained intact and grown. Only the income generated by the principal is distributed for grants. It is the intention of the Board of Trustees that the grantee organizations will not become solely dependent on Foundation monies to fund projects and programs, and that broad based community support is important to the long-term success of any organization.

The Defiance Area Foundation provides the following Guidelines to Grant Seekers:

- Shall be classified as a not-for-profit organization under The Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3), or equivalent (such as a church, school or government agency)
- Should directly impact the citizens of Defiance County.
- Should assist those citizens whose basic needs are not met by existing services.
- Should encourage matching gifts from the community or other organizations.
- Should address new and emerging needs or incorporate better approaches to meeting current needs.
- Should focus on projects that address the prevention of a problem rather than a solution for a problem.
- Should minimize duplication of services by collaborating with other not-for-profit organizations in the community.

The Defiance Area Foundation will not consider grants to individuals and will not ordinarily consider grants:

- For individual scholarships or grants, even if through an otherwise qualified organization.
- For religious activity.
- For endowment funds, except in unusual circumstances.
- For debt reduction.
- For fund-raising related activities.
- For advertising (unless the advertising is part of a public education campaign).
- For projects and community services that taxpayers support or are expected to support.
- For political issues.
- For staffing and operating expenses of well-established organizations.
- For conferences and recognition events, unless for local benefit.

The Defiance Area Foundation provides the following guidelines for multi-year grants:

- Multi-year grants are permitted from the community fund (beginning with the 2021-2022 year) up to a maximum of four years per grant.
- The maximum annual grant amount for all multi-year grants may not exceed 25% of the annual community grant funding available.
- No disbursements will initially be made until the project is approved and started.
- These grants will be reviewed annually by the Grants Committee to ensure viability and progression of the grant.

The Foundation requires grant recipients to submit an update six months after receiving the grant.

613 West Third Street, Defiance, Ohio 43512 – (419) 782-3130

WWW.DEFIANCEAREAFUNDATION.ORG – chris@defianceareafoundation.org

Policy: 4.1

Adopted: 11.15.18; amended 4.24.25

Approved: 4.24.25