



The Erie
Community
Foundation

2024 Grant Guidelines

OVERVIEW

The Erie Community Foundation's mission is to inspire, engage and empower donors and communities across the region, today and tomorrow. Our community-informed grants follow an inclusive growth strategy designed to create a unified, vibrant, and thriving region for all. We support collaborative projects that promote system-level change with a focus on: education, health, economic growth, neighborhood and community development, and quality of life.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

TRANSFORMATIONAL GRANTS

- Create meaningful changes in the lives of the people being served.
- Demonstrate shared goals across a continuum of institutions, organizations, and programs.
- Identified by The Erie Community Foundation Trustees and staff through their community engagement activities. Contact Pat Herr, Vice President of Community Impact, for more information.

SHAPING TOMORROW GRANTS

- Strengthen nonprofit organizations in Erie County that address key community needs.
- Range from \$50,000 to \$250,000.
- Prioritize projects that support marginalized communities and fuel inclusive growth strategies through a collective impact approach.

HELPING TODAY GRANTS

- Reflect input from the community and contribute to advancing the organization's mission.
- Do not exceed \$50,000 and must be used within 12 months.
- Prioritize projects that directly benefit individuals and families who are socio-economically disadvantaged or uplift historically marginalized communities.

ACORN GRANTS

- Provide support to newer and smaller organizations (fewer than five years old or with a budget less than \$150,000) to establish a solid foundation.
- Do not exceed \$10,000.
- Prioritize organizations that identify a need and explain how it is essential to build capacity.

URGENT GRANTS

- Assist nonprofits experiencing an unbudgeted, unexpected, and time-sensitive crisis.
- Do not exceed \$15,000.
- Can be requested between grant cycles.



APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Review The Erie Community Foundation's 2024 grant guidelines to confirm eligibility.
2. Contact Kelly Patterson, Community Impact Associate, at 814-454-0843, ext. 104 to schedule a pre-application meeting with the Community Impact Team.
3. Following the meeting, the applicant will receive an invitation link to apply.
4. If awarded funding, review, sign, and return the grant application. This will be done online.
5. Complete regular evaluations. Failure to do so will jeopardize future funding.

DEADLINES

Grant Cycle	Application Deadline	Notification
Cycle 1	February 1	April 5
Cycle 2	April 26	June 28
Cycle 3	August 2	October 4
Cycle 4	October 21	December 12

GRANT ELIGIBILITY

- The Erie Community Foundation awards grants to nonprofits defined as tax-exempt under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue code that are located within Erie County or demonstrate a sizable population within Erie County.
- Eligible nonprofits may receive funding once per grant cycle in a 12-month period.
- Applicants that do not have 501 (c)3 tax-exempt status may apply for a grant using a 501 (c)3 organization as its fiscal sponsor. A fiscal sponsor agreement must be submitted prior to submitting the grant application.
- In general, grants are not issued to: individuals, scholarship funds, fundraising events, deficit reduction, endowment campaigns, sectarian religious activities, and reimbursements for expenses already incurred.

The Erie Community Foundation's affinity groups and regional affiliates offer grant opportunities. Please visit www.ErieCommunityFoundation.org for more information. Sponsorship requests are available through GO Apply too.

The Erie Community Foundation manages grantmaking for donor-designated, agency, and scholarship endowments, which are made in accordance with the wishes of the original donor(s), consistent with IRS guidance.



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