The work of The Erie Community Foundation is made possible through the gifts of generous donors, past and present. Our mission is to improve the quality of life for all in our region by evaluating and addressing community issues, building permanent charitable endowments and promoting philanthropic and community leadership. We do this in various ways, including the support of local nonprofit partners, through our grantmaking. **In 2018, the Foundation invites nonprofits to apply for grants in the following categories:**

HELPING TODAY GRANTS

The purpose of the Foundation's *Helping Today* grant program is to improve the quality of life in the region by ensuring a vital nonprofit sector through the support of projects and activities of our nonprofit partners. Typically, *Helping Today* grants do not exceed $30,000, and are limited to one year in duration. *Helping Today* grant applications may be submitted for the following types of requests:

- **Program Expansion:** Increasing or developing agency or program capacity;
- **Current Program Enhancement:** Improving organizational quality of current programming;
- **Capital, Facilities or System's Needs:** Assistance with financing equipment and/or machinery to improve agency or program performance, including structural improvements or repair;
- **Communication/Marketing:** Expanding outreach capacity, improving organizational or program "branding" initiatives;
- **Technology:** Improving hardware, software, network resources and/or services necessary to manage the organization or program - bids are required, along with a 50% cash match;
- **Vehicle Purchase:** Bids are required, along with a 50% cash match relative to the purchase of any vehicle;
- **Great Ideas:** Innovative projects that address unmet community needs.

HELPING TODAY DEADLINES

Application Deadline	Notification Date
Februrary 12	April 13
April 23	June 15
July 16	September 14
October 15	December 14

URGENT GRANTS

Sudden and unexpected events or situations arise from time to time that impede critical, daily operations of a nonprofit organization. When such situations arise that cannot wait until the next *Helping Today* grant cycle, please contact Rachel Cacchione, Community Impact Associate, at 814-454-0843.

SHAPING TOMORROW GRANTS

In 2018, The Erie Community Foundation will build upon its recent *Shaping Tomorrow* grantmaking by launching **Transformational Philanthropy 2.0**. The Foundation will award up to ten $250,000 **Transformational Philanthropy 2.0** grants to projects that (1) support one or more of the Foundation's 2016 *Shaping Tomorrow* projects (Erie Community College, Innovation District, Neighborhood Revitalization and Community Schools); (2) are consistent with the priorities of Erie Refocused (The City's comprehensive plan); and (3) must have solid evaluation and sustainability plans. Preference may be given to projects focused on downtown Erie and that can be measured by Erie Vital Signs.

The 2018 **Transformational Philanthropy 2.0** process is as follows: Letter of Interest (LOI) for a 2018 **Transformational Philanthropy 2.0** grant award are due on **March 15.** Grant proposals from those selected to submit a full application will be due by **May 15**. Grant awards will be announced in June. Interested nonprofits should contact a member of the Community Impact team for more information.

COMMUNITY FUND DRIVES GRANTS

Local and regional nonprofit organizations may apply for support of their campaigns by submitting a Community Fund Drives grant request. Before applying for a grant from the Foundation, campaigns in excess of $500,000 must be endorsed by The Erie Community Fund Drives Committee, facilitated by The Nonprofit Partnership. Fundraising campaigns below the $500,000 threshold may apply directly to the Foundation. Community Fund Drives are considered upon receipt of an approved online application.

A pre-application meeting with a member of our Community Impact Team is required before submitting any application!

GRANTMAKING ELIGIBILITY

The Erie Community Foundation awards grants to nonprofit organizations defined as tax-exempt under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code. Eligible nonprofits must be located within Erie County or demonstrate service to a majority of the population in Erie County. Eligible nonprofits may receive funding one time per grant program in a 12-month period.

FISCAL SPONSORSHIP

If an applicant does not have its own 501(c)3 tax exempt status from the IRS, it may apply for a grant using a 501(c)3 organization as its fiscal sponsor, provided the grant furthers the sponsor's own tax exempt purpose. The fiscal sponsor submits the grant and all evaluation reports to the Foundation, is legally responsible to ensure grant funds are used properly, maintains financial records pertaining to the grant, and retains complete discretion and control as to the use of funds. A fiscal sponsor agreement must be sent to the Foundation for review before any grant application is submitted.

In general, grants are **not** made to:
- Individuals
- Scholarship Funds
- Fundraising Events
- Deficit Reduction
- Annual Operating Costs
- Government Funding Cuts
- Endowment Campaigns
- Municipal Capital Related Costs
- Sectarian Religious Activities
- Program Ads
- Reimbursements for Expenses Already Incurred

Please Note: The online grant application form must be completed by 5:00 p.m. on the deadline date. For questions or guidance, please call 814-454-0843. All applications are reviewed by Foundation staff and a volunteer grants review panel, with the final decision made by The Erie Community Foundation Board of Trustees.

The Erie Community Foundation also manages grantmaking for donor designated, agency and scholarship endowments. Grants in these areas are made in accordance with the wishes of the original donor(s), consistent with Internal Revenue Service guidance.

GRANTMAKING PROCESS

- Review the 2018 Grant Guidelines to confirm eligibility.
- Meet with a member of the Foundation's Community Impact Team for a pre-application meeting.
- Log onto the Foundation's website, **www.ErieCommunityFoundation.org**.
- Using the Grant Application access code received at the pre-application meeting, complete and submit the appropriate grant application, as directed by Foundation staff.
- Final funding decision made by the Foundation's Board of Trustees
- If awarded funding, the organization will receive a grant agreement to be reviewed, signed and returned to the Foundation. The check will be released on the date indicated on the grant agreement.
- Regular evaluation reports are required of all those receiving a grant. Failure to submit reports WILL jeopardize future funding.
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QUESTIONS OR NEED INFORMATION?

Call the Community Impact Team
814-454-0843

The Erie
Community
Foundation

The Erie Community Foundation collaborates with many partners to inspire good work that improves our community. Through Erie Vital Signs, we measure progress by comparing our community to similar regions across six broad topical areas. To learn more, visit **www.ErieVitalSigns.org**. Thanks to our donors, we also inspire action through our broad-based *Helping Today, Shaping Tomorrow* and Community Fund Drives grantmaking programs.