

2023 Grant Guidelines



The Erie
Community
Foundation

Through Erie's remarkable civic organizations and generous donors, past and present, The Erie Community Foundation makes positive impact on our community. 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. For details of the Foundation's mission-aligned vision and priority grantmaking, please visit www.ErieCommunityFoundation.org. **The Foundation invites nonprofits to apply for 2023 grants in these categories:**

HELPING TODAY GRANTS

The Foundation's *Helping Today* grant program seeks to support Erie County nonprofits addressing the most immediate needs of our community. *Helping Today* intentionally casts a wide net, but prioritizes projects that address health, economy and education. *Helping Today* awards do not exceed \$50,000 with all grant monies expensed within 12 months of receiving the award.

Focused on helping nonprofits build capacity to better address issues in our community, *Helping Today* grants can support (but are not limited to) the following: operations, programming, planning, marketing/community awareness, capital purchases (including technology and vehicles), facilities improvements, and evaluation.

Grant Cycle	Application Deadline	Notification Date
Cycle 1	Wednesday, February 1	Friday, March 17
Cycle 2	Friday, April 28	Friday, June 30
Cycle 3	Tuesday, August 1	Friday, October 6
Cycle 4	Friday, October 13	Friday, December 14

SHAPING TOMORROW GRANTS

The *Shaping Tomorrow* grant program at The Erie Community Foundation invests in projects that help our nonprofit partners advance their capacity to serve the community. Grants can range from \$50,000 to \$250,000. Funds for third party evaluation can be included in your request. Priority will be given to projects addressing widely recognized key indicators and feature data-driven approaches, solutions and best-practices. Matching funds are not required, but strong financing and planning are valued in the Foundation's decision-making process. *Shaping Tomorrow* projects are inclusive, established initiatives that feature multiple partnerships and creative approaches to collaboration and sustainability.

Shaping Tomorrow grants will be submitted and reviewed quarterly. For more information and details about how to apply, please contact Kelly Patterson or Pat Herr.

URGENT GRANTS

Periodically, nonprofits may experience an unbudgeted, unexpected and time-sensitive crisis that impedes daily mission-critical activities. When such events occur and cannot wait until the next grant cycle, please contact Rachel Cacchione. Urgent grant requests should not exceed \$15,000.

COMMUNITY IMPACT SPONSORSHIP

To highlight Erie's rich diversity and commitment to be a welcoming, inclusive community, the Foundation has a modest budget for small sponsorships of community events that are free and open to the public and are intentional about advancing multicultural values. For more information, contact a member of the Community Impact Team.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Young Erie Philanthropists: The Young Erie Philanthropists grants focus on the attraction and retention of youth and young professionals, funding initiatives that include youth education, career readiness and economic development. Application opens April 3.

Erie Women's Fund: The Erie Women's Fund will award up to \$100,000 to a project or projects that empower women and families to reach self-sufficiency. Proposals could focus on a number of areas including childcare, food security, access to healthcare, housing and workforce development. Application opens February 17.

Furchak-Ferko Grant: This grant is offered through the Erie Women's Fund and honors the legacy of Margaret Ferko and her parents. The grant supports projects that address varied community gaps that impact local women and children. Application opens September 14.

LGBT Community Funds: This grant seeks proposals that address various needs in the LGBTQ+ community which could include safe schools, youth homelessness, substance abuse, mental health challenges, workplace equality and family support. Application opens September 14.

Hear Erie's Youth: The Foundation's team of youth philanthropists seek proposals for projects and initiatives focusing the immediate needs of youth in our community. Projects could include, but are not limited to, meeting basic needs, access to mental healthcare services, and addressing racism and discrimination. Application opens March 6.

Community Impact Team Contact Information

Pat Herr <i>Vice President of Community Impact</i>	pherr@eriecommunityfoundation.org 814-454-0843 x. 113
Rachel Cacchione <i>Director of Community Impact</i>	rcacchione@eriecommunityfoundation.org 814-454-0843 x. 114
Kelly Patterson <i>Community Impact Associate</i>	kpatterson@eriecommunityfoundation.org 814-454-0843 x. 104

GRANTMAKING ELIGIBILITY

The Erie Community Foundation awards grants to nonprofits 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 sizable population within Erie County. Generally, eligible nonprofits may receive funding once per grant cycle 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.

GENERAL GRANTMAKING INFORMATION

In general, grants are **not** made to:

- individuals
- scholarship funds
- fundraising events
- deficit reduction
- endowment campaigns
- sectarian religious activities
- reimbursements for expenses already incurred

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

GRANTMAKING PROCESS CHECKLIST

- Review the Foundation's 2023 Grant Guidelines to confirm eligibility.
- Schedule a pre-application meeting with Community Impact team member
- Log onto the Foundation's website, www.ErieCommunityFoundation.org.
- Use the Grant Application access code received at the pre-application meeting to complete and submit the appropriate grant application. (A read-only PDF Helping Today application is accessible on the website without a code.)
- Meet the deadline.
- If awarded funding, review, sign and return a grant agreement to the Foundation.
- Provide regular evaluations. **Failure to submit reports jeopardizes future funding.**

APPLICATION FORM DISCLOSURE

PDFs of grant applications are posted online; however, all applications must be submitted through the Foundation's online portal. A pre-application meeting with a Community Impact Team member is required before an online submittal. The online grant application form must be completed by the deadline date. *Helping Today* applications are reviewed by Foundation staff with the guidance of a volunteer Community Advisory Committee and final decisions by The Erie Community Foundation's Board of Trustees.

OTHER RESOURCES

- Visit www.ErieGives.org to learn how to register for the Erie Gives which is slated for August 8, 2023.
- Visit www.YourNPP.org to learn about the resources of the Nonprofit Partnership, which provides education, training and tools to strengthen nonprofits.