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515.883.2626

2024 Capacity Building Grants

The Community Foundation Capacity Building grant program invests in initiatives that enable nonprofit organizations to strengthen their boards and governance, enhance internal management, and strategically plan for the future, all while focusing on fulfilling their mission. Our community thrives when our nonprofit sector thrives. Our goal is to support the building of resilient organizations that leverage opportunities to move their missions forward to the betterment of our community. We focus our grantmaking on organizations serving Greater Des Moines.

Examples of well-aligned capacity building projects:

- Strategic planning and visioning for the nonprofit.
- Succession and talent pipeline planning to ensure organizational leadership.
- Financial scenario/business planning for stability.
- Development or refinement of diversity, equity, and inclusion practices.
- Fund development/marketing strategy development (excluding feasibility studies).

Projects **not** eligible or competitive for the Capacity Building grant program may be a better fit for our [GIVEdsm](#) platform. Examples might include:

- Ongoing annual operating and program expenses
- Capital infrastructure projects (bricks and mortar)
- Sectarian religious programs promoting a particular faith
- Tactical items such as hardware/equipment, collateral materials, donor management software or website development

Projects focused on exploring and implementing strategic alignment strategies between two or more organizations in order to address a community issue/opportunity, align operations/programming or deepen partnerships should consider applying for a Strategic Alignment Grant.

Grant amounts: Organizations may apply for up to \$5,000.

Interested in applying? We recognize capacity building needs can vary widely and do not always happen on a prescribed timeline. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis; decisions are communicated in approximately 10 business days. Please reach out to Ellie Burns, burns@desmoinesfoundation.org, to schedule a meeting to explore whether this grant program might be a fit for your needs.

How to apply. Applicants are encouraged to draft responses to the questions below as the Community Impact team is available to provide reflections prior to submission. Final applications are accepted through an online form located in our Manage My Grants portal; contact Sarah Cahill, cahill@desmoinesfoundation.org to obtain login credentials.

Capacity Grant application questions:

- Contact information for Executive Director/CEO and Grant Contact
- Project Title
- Organization information [EIN, Address, website]
- Fiscal Sponsor EIN, if applicable

Budget Information:

- Funding request amount
- Total project budget
- Organization's total annual budget
- If the request is partially funded with a Capacity Building grant, will the project continue?

Project information:

- Provide an overview of your organization, including mission statement and future goals including those that reflect equity centered strategies.
- State the organizational need and how it will be addressed with a Capacity Building Grant.
- Share the anticipated timeline for this project.
- Please share the stakeholders that you anticipate will be engaged in the project.
- Does your organization plan to work with a consultant? If yes, please upload a detailed work plan submitted by the consultant after this application is submitted that includes the hourly rate for the consultant, estimated number of hours for the project and deliverables.

Required documents:

- Project budget detailing other sources of funding including your organization's and/or board's financial commitment and the amount requested from the Community Foundation.
- List of the organization's Board of Directors.
- Consultant Work Plan (if applicable).

Grant requirements:

- Grantees must complete an online grant agreement to release funding.
- An evaluation is due within one year of the grant award, including project deliverables and budgetary documentation.

For more information on the Capacity Building Grant process, please contact:

Ellie Burns, Senior Director of Nonprofit Relations | burns@desmoinesfoundation.org or (515) 883-2629