

Eligibility

Grant requests must meet all of the following requirements before consideration will be given:

- Applicant organizations must have current 501(c)(3) Public Charity status from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), or be a governmental entity, or be an IRS-recognized tribe. It may not be a private foundation as defined in Section 509(a) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- Geographical focus of project must be predominately (60% or more) for the benefit of residents of rural Oregon and Siskiyou County, California. We define rural as communities with populations of 30,000 or less and not adjacent to or part of an urban or metropolitan area.
- Must include significant collaboration and community buy-in (as evidenced by in-kind and cash contributions from local and regional sources).
- Must have at least 50% of funding (may include in-kind) for the total project budget committed before applying.
- Organization must not be delinquent in filing final reports for previous grants from the Foundation.
- Organization may not be currently receiving other responsive grant funds from the Foundation.

Exclusions

The Foundation generally will not consider funding requests for:

- Projects or programs that are indirectly funded through a fiscal agent.
- Endowments or reserve funds.
- General fund drives, such as United Way.
- Debt retirement or operating deficits.
- Indirect or overhead expenses.
- Sponsorship of fundraising events.
- Propagandizing or influencing elections or legislation.

What Makes a Strong Proposal?

Responsive Grant Requests that are Ready for Review

To be ready, a proposal should be well beyond the conceptual stage, have a clear plan, timeline and budget. There should be defined benefits or outcomes and a description of how and why your community is behind the proposal. Involvement of your board with cash, in-kind contributions, and a community campaign are some indicators of a proposal being ready. Community participation is a primary factor in a proposal being ready. We like to see that fundraising is significantly underway with your traditional supporters, local businesses, key donors and other foundations.

Size of Grants

Our average grant size is about \$50,000 and we consider grants of \$100,000 or above to be a "large grant." We highly recommend that you develop a complete fundraising plan and your request to The Ford Family Foundation be a component of that plan. We generally will consider funding requests up to 30% of the total project cost.

Review & Approval

After an initial review of a proposal by a committee of our staff, site visits and follow-up communications may be appropriate. We may recommend the proposal be reviewed by our Board of Directors, which meets four times a year. Small responsive or technical assistance requests are reviewed, and a funding determination is made by senior Foundation staff. Proposals receive a response regarding the outcome of the review or next steps, if any, usually within 30 days.

For more information, please see our website at www.tfff.org and click on "Grants" from the homepage. Questions may be answered in the "Frequently Asked Questions" section. If you still have burning questions that are not answered online, you may call us at 541.957.5574 and ask to speak to a member of the Grants Team.