

Rushford Community Foundation Community Grant Application

The Rushford Community Foundation (RCF) provides grants to support programs and projects that improve the quality of life and build a stronger community in the greater Rushford area. The foundation is primarily interested in funding new and innovative projects or programs that build on existing strengths of an organization or the community.

Requirements

Proposals **must** be submitted by a 501(c) nonprofit organization or a unit of government, such as municipalities, townships, and school districts. Include a copy of the IRS Determination Letter if the applicant is a 501(c) organization. Applicants that are not tax-exempt nonprofit organizations must apply through a suitable fiscal agent willing to accept responsibility for the project, such as a municipality or school district.

Criteria

Grants are awarded as funding permits. The RCF Board of Directors uses the following criteria when reviewing and evaluating applications:

- **Focus Area:** The population directly benefiting from the project is in the greater Rushford area.
- **Need or Impact:** There is a demonstrated need in the community for the project or service, and the funding would have direct and/or indirect significant impact on the community.
- **Collaboration:** There is an overall effort to collaborate and pool resources with other area organizations to make the project a reality.
- **Sustainability:** There is a reasonable potential of the organization to be able to maintain such a program or project, if applicable, into the future.
- **Measurability:** The project has clear goals and outcomes that are measurable.

In addition to the above criteria, **preference** is given to the following:

- Projects that have the greatest potential for long-term community benefits.
- Projects that meet community needs not currently being met
- Projects that promote volunteer participation and citizen involvement in meeting community needs.
- Projects with a high potential for success, as demonstrated by the organization's degree of commitment and the ability to obtain needed resources to plan, organize, implement and complete the project with integrity.

Generally RCF does not make grants to:

- political campaigns
- organizations that discriminate
- individuals
- capital/building campaigns
- endowments
- religious organizations that are purely denominational or sectarian in purpose
- general operating budgets of tax-supported educational institutions
- general operating support to foundations that are themselves grant-making bodies
- fraternal organizations or school athletic funds
- sports leagues or athletic organizations
- national health agencies or their local affiliates
- debit retirement or operational deficits
- trips and tours

Quarterly Due Dates

Grant applications are reviewed on a quarterly basis. In 2015, grant applications are due by January 26, April 27, July 27 and October 26. Grant applications may be mailed to RCF, P.O. Box 671, Rushford, MN 55971.

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3. **To whom are you going to be providing your services?**

4. **What is the projected timeline for the project?**

5. **Describe the project outcomes you wish to achieve and how you plan to keep record of the achievements.**

6. **In what ways are other partners or other contributors involved in your project?**

7. **Describe your status in securing other funds for this project, if necessary.**

Project Budget

Submit a budget worksheet that lists all proposed expenditures for the project, and all revenue needed for the project, noting where funds have been secured or requested.

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Submission Checklist

- Applicant Information
- Project Summary
- Project Narrative
- Project Budget

I have read and comply with the grant application requirements and criteria. To the best of my knowledge, all information provided in this application is true and correct.

Agreement: In submitting the application, the applicant agrees to the following:

1. The applicant will spend funds solely for the purposes stated in the application. The applicant will refund any dollars that are used outside of this purpose. In addition the applicant will submit a final report, within one year, in a format provided by RCF, including a financial statement documenting the expenditure of grant funds.
2. The applicant realizes that payment of the funds granted will be at the convenience of the RCF, including cancellation of the grant and/or modification of previously agreed upon payment schedules should such cancellation or modification be deemed necessary by the RCF.
3. The applicant understands that the RCF, in researching this grant application, may review any and all of the information submitted as part of the requests with advisors of the RCF's choosing, if deemed necessary by the RCF.
4. The applicant will recognize the RCF in all appropriate publicity connected to the applicant program.
5. The applicant understands that by submitting this application to the RCF for review, a grant is not guaranteed.

Authorized Signature

Date

Print Name

Title