



2018 Community Grants Guidelines

The Community Foundation of South Puget Sound's Community Grants program is a significant source of community funding. The program is made possible by generous donors who have contributed unrestricted and broadly defined area-of-interest gifts which allow us to respond to the community's changing opportunities and challenges over time. Our service area is Thurston, Mason, and Lewis counties.

Purpose

Through our Community Grants, the Community Foundation aims to build community capacity and support individual and community well-being. We define community capacity as the combined influence of our region's commitment, resources, and skills to build upon community strengths and address community issues.

Program Details

The Community Foundation awards roughly 65-80 grants annually through our Community Grants program. Award amounts typically range from \$2,500 to \$10,000. Total awards through this program in 2018 will be approximately \$350,000. There is one Community Grants cycle in 2018 with an open application period from May 14 through August 3. About 80-115 requests are submitted each cycle. Funds awarded in 2018 are for use in 2019.

Give Local is Back for 2018

Give Local is a crowdfunding campaign hosted by the Community Foundation of South Puget Sound. It features nonprofits who have applied for a grant from the Community Foundation, but need additional funds to meet their goal. As part of the 2018 Community Grants process, nonprofits will have the opportunity to opt in or out of Give Local. Your decision about whether or not to participate in Give Local will not affect how your application is evaluated. Give Local will take place from October 31 through November 20, 2018.

Community Grants Focus Areas

The Community Foundation of South Puget Sound seeks to fund a wide range of programs and organizations that contribute to quality of life and positive outcomes for individuals and families living in Thurston, Mason, and Lewis Counties. Grant applications will typically align with at least one of the Foundation's focus areas, and we continue to be interested in all ideas that lead to building a better community. The following is a list of the types of activities under each focus area that we typically support.



Arts and Culture

- Strengthen arts and cultural organizations
- Cultivate and support appreciation of diverse cultures and art forms
- Deepen community-based arts education for children and adults
- Enhance organizations' ability to diversify and expand audiences
- Use the arts to promote cultural expression, build community, and bridge cultural divides

Community and Civic Engagement

- Promote volunteerism, immigrant integration, and civic participation
- Support coordination and organizing efforts that create change in communities and expand opportunities for all
- Support leadership development opportunities, especially leadership that is diverse and inclusive

Economic Opportunity

- Strategies to help individuals and families build financial assets and manage their finances
- Develop pathways aimed at linking individuals disconnected from the workforce or school to opportunities for jobs, education, and achieving prosperity

Education & Youth

- Expand educational opportunities, foster creativity, and enhance academic experiences for youth in our communities
- Promote opportunities for youth development and leadership
- Support programs that work with underserved youth and young adults
- Offer training and support for educators/providers/families

Environment & Animal Welfare

- Support conservation and stewardship of our natural resources and outdoor spaces
- Support education opportunities to increase environmental awareness for people of all ages
- Support the provision of care for animals (very limited funding)

Health & Wellness

- Increase access to services that address health and wellness through all stages of life, especially for low-income and vulnerable populations



- Increase awareness and activities that support healthy lifestyles and community well-being, especially for low-income and vulnerable populations

Housing & Human Services

- Support access to healthy food, stable housing, and safe communities
- Support access to information and services that allow vulnerable populations to remain safe and independent

Types of Support

The Community Grants program awards three types of grants:

Program Support

Program (or project) support grants can support ongoing or expanding programs or projects that align with the Community Foundation's funding priorities. Program support grants can also support the development of a new program or project.

Capacity Building

Capacity building grants support opportunities to help an organization to more effectively carry out its mission. These grants will be awarded to support activities that will make an organization stronger, more successful, or more effective. Capacity building activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Training for staff, board, or volunteers
- Improving financial management or information systems
- Acquiring new technology or equipment to improve or expand services
- Developing new sources of income
- Organizational planning and/or development

Capacity building requests should include an explanation of how the activities will improve the organization.

General operating

General operating grants invest in a grantee's mission, rather than specific projects or programs. It allows grant recipients to use funds as they see fit to reach their goals—whether for salaries and overhead, to invest in technology, or to fund a marketing campaign. General operating support grants are available to nonprofits with operating budgets under \$1 million. Organizations must have a base of operations in Thurston, Mason, or Lewis Counties.



Community Foundation Values

Our grants committees give priority to organizations that demonstrate these Community Foundation values:

Collaboration and Connectivity

We believe that building effective relationships and working with others leads to stronger and more vibrant communities.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The Community Foundation seeks to promote the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion in our organization and in our grantmaking. We honor the diverse strengths, needs, voices, and backgrounds within our community, and we support organizations whose missions promote equity and inclusion.

Shared Learning

We believe that organizational and shared learning should inform programs and practices. We believe that involving feedback and participation from community members and constituents leads to better outcomes.

Guidelines

The Community Foundation of South Puget Sound makes grants to 501(c)(3) public charities that serve Thurston, Mason, and Lewis County residents. If your organization or group is not a 501(c)(3), you must secure a fiscal sponsor.

Grant amounts typically range from \$2,500 to \$10,000. Each organization may submit one application per cycle. Applications are reviewed by our Grants Committees, consisting of board and community members. The review may include a site visit or interview. The Grants Committees then present funding recommendations to our Board of Directors for final action in late October. Grant payments will be mailed by December 31.

We consider applications that:

- Are complete and in the requested format
- Clearly describe proposed activities and plans
- Demonstrate sound fiscal policy and responsible financial management
- Align with our funding priorities and values
- Use sound governance and management practices

We do not support:

- Organizations that discriminate with regard to age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, national origin, religious affiliation, or presence of a disability
- Activities or purchases that occur prior to grant decisions
- Endowments and debt reduction



- Individuals
- Political activities
- Religious organizations when funds would be used in whole or in part to further the organization's religious purposes

Our Community Grants program typically does not support*:

- National and statewide organizations that cannot demonstrate a local presence
- Capital support for new buildings, renovations, property acquisitions, or major expansions
- Higher education institutions and private schools
- Annual campaigns, events, tickets, fundraisers
- Re-granting programs
- Individual schools, daycares, or camps
- Recreational programs and equipment, including playgrounds
- Short-term events and celebrations, such as conferences, festivals, and fundraising functions

*We encourage you to contact us with questions about whether your proposal's activities would fit within our Community Grants objectives and guidelines.

Grants contact: Mindie Reule (360) 705-3340 mreule@thecommunityfoundation.com

Nondiscrimination Policy

The Community Foundation of South Puget Sound does not support organizations that discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, disabilities, age, status as a veteran, national origin, or any other protected classes.

Application

Application questions: Visit <https://www.thecommunityfoundation.com/grant-application> to view more about the process and download the 2018 application questions.

Apply now: [Click here](#) to go to our online grants platform.

Due Date

Applications are due on Friday, August 3 at 5:00pm. Applications received after the due date will not be accepted.

Questions

We encourage you to contact us if you have questions about our Community Grants program or the application process. We'll do our best to respond to your inquiries within 48 hours. Contact Mindie Reule at mreule@thecommunityfoundation.com or (360) 705-3340.



2018 Community Grants Timeline

May 14	2018 Community Grants process opens
June	Community Grants information sessions Lewis County: June 14, 10:30-11:30 am, Centralia Library Mason County: June 14, 3:00-4:00 pm, Shelton Library Thurston County: June 18, 3:00-4:00 pm, Community Foundation
August 3	Applications due <i>Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Friday, August 3.</i>
August 30	Organizations invited to participate in Give Local
September	Interviews and site visits Lewis County: Monday, September 24 Mason County: Tuesday, September 25 Thurston County: Weds. September 26 and Mon. October 1 <i>Back up dates will also be available to provide more flexibility.</i>
October	Grants Committees deliberation meetings Board of Directors Considers grants committees' recommendations
October 26	Nonprofits notified via phone or email
October 31	Give Local begins
November 20	Give Local ends
December 31	Grant checks distributed
June 30, 2019	Grant reports due



Grant Crowdfunding Opportunity Details

This year as part of our 2018 Community Grants process, the Community Foundation of South Puget Sound will offer our nonprofit partners the opportunity to participate in Give Local. Give Local is a Community Foundation led crowdfunding campaign. Participating nonprofits and the Community Foundation work together to invite the community to support nonprofit programs. Give Local will take place from October 31 through November 20, 2018.

There will be a matching grant available to incentivize giving during Give Local. The Community Foundation and its sponsors will cover platform and credit cards fees so that 100% of donations will be passed along to the nonprofits.

When completing the online grants application, there is an option for an organization to opt in or out of Give Local. Nonprofits will be notified by August 31 if they have been invited to participate in Give Local. Please note that not all organizations invited to participate in Give Local will be awarded a grant by the Community Foundation.

Organizations will be selected to participate in Give Local based on alignment with the Community Foundation's grant guidelines as well as factors such as strength of application, and demonstrated presence in Thurston, Mason, and/or Lewis counties.

There is no maximum amount of funding that can be requested; however, grant awards from the Community Foundation are not likely to exceed \$10,000.

Additional training is required for participating nonprofits to understand how the campaign works and ways to participate. Organizations that perform well on crowdfunding campaigns have a strong internet presence, updated donor databases with email addresses, and use social media to promote their work.

The total grant award (Community Foundation award plus additional gifts through the online crowdfunding campaign) will be disbursed in December.



2017 Community Grants Information

Total applications received: 115 applications totaling \$960,000 in requests

Grant dollars awarded: \$430,000

Number of grants awarded: 80

Average award: \$5,226

Smallest grant: \$1,500

Largest grant: \$12,000

[View a list of 2017 Community Grants recipients.](#)

Number of grants by Annual Budget size:

28 grantees have annual budgets less than \$150,000

15 grantees have annual budgets of \$150,000 to \$500,000

13 grantees have annual budgets of \$500,000 to \$1 million

15 grantees have annual budgets of \$1 million to \$3 million

9 grantees have annual budgets over \$3 million

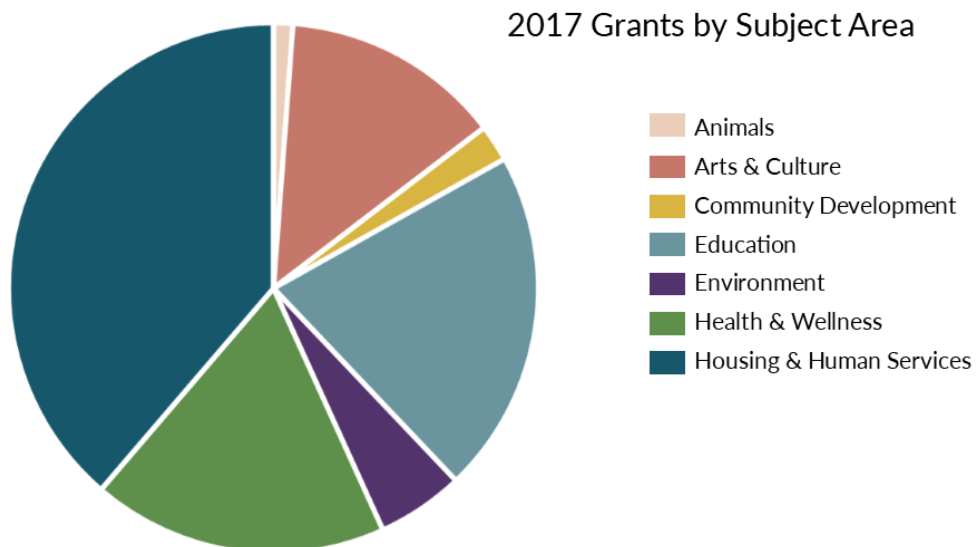
Number of grants awarded by county:

Thurston: 53

Mason: 17

Lewis: 10

The follow chart illustrates the distribution of Community Grant funds by subject area.



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