

Community Foundation
of
St. Clair County

2013 Grant Writing Workshop

Updated Priorities

- Only apply to our discretionary funds
- Community Development
- Education
- Arts & Culture
- Basic Needs

Community Development

- Downtowns: keeping them vibrant & healthy
- Waterfront development & utilization for economic gain
- Regional Collaboration
- Entrepreneurism
- Tourism
- Note: some special events, or art-related projects, can boost downtown economies

Education

- Know How2Go
- College Access, college tours
- Keeping kids on a path towards some kind of post-secondary education, transitional years
- Women's Initiative: Early childhood & literacy
- Grants are not restricted to schools

Arts & Culture

- Blue Water Arts Committee makes most funding decisions
- Port Huron Museum & Studio 1219
- Local & regional arts groups, including those in Lexington
- Collaboration
- Unique special events

Basic Needs

- Food
- Clothing
- Shelter
- Medical Care
- Nonprofit capacity

Limited Funds

- We have discretion over approx. 25% of our funds
- Most of our funds, and thus grants, are determined by our donors
- More good proposals & grant requests than we have money for
- We say “no” to many good requests

Grant making committees

- Grants Committee
- Women's Initiative
- Youth Council
- Blue Water Arts Committee
- Community Funds; Algonac, St. Clair, Port Huron (may or may not accept requests)
- Multiple donor advised funds and field of interest funds (generally do not accept requests)

When to apply?

- Any time.....requests will be put on the next available agenda....except...
- Requests of \$50,000 or more, are only considered in the 4th quarter
- Call first to discuss your requests
- Depending on your request, you may be invited in to make a personal presentation
- Apply early in the calendar year
- An initial letter is often OK, especially if you've been declined before

Staff's role

- Help applicants submit a good and complete proposal
- Helping applicants, or giving you the OK to submit an application, is not a “yes” to your requests
- Staff generally can't give you a “yes” or “no”
- Our job is to try and help you get funding, but most proposals do not get funded

Good Applications

- Clear & concise
- Use our buzzwords & show understanding of our priorities & previous grants
- Avoid “mission creep”
- Accurate project budgets: In Kind donations have a value, don't leave that out
- Don't sell us on the obvious: the importance of the arts to our Arts Committee, or the value of education to our Grants Cmte

For presentations

- Generally have 5 minutes to make your pitch
- Focus on the details: how much money will do what?
- Avoid “selling” us with newspaper clippings, brochures, photos
- Be aware of similar grants we have made
- Be knowledgeable about other organizations doing the same basic thing you’re doing

Some reasons for being declined

- Geographic preference
- Too many similar projects or events
- No clear distinction why we should fund your request over a similar request
- Asking for too much \$\$ as a % of your total project
- Not a priority
- We feel there are other funding options for you

Questions?

www.stclairfoundation.org