



## Princeton Mercer Regional Chamber of Commerce Community Development Fund

### Grant Guidelines 2019

#### **FUND MISSION**

The Princeton Mercer Regional Chamber of Commerce Community Development Fund ("The Fund") contributes to the strength and vitality of our communities by actively supporting organizations that contribute to the critical civic, educational, scientific, artistic, cultural and economic development interests of the region. The Fund seeks to collaborate with regional nonprofits to meet specific needs within our community.

#### **FUNDING PRIORITIES**

The Fund seeks to build strong partnerships and lasting value in our communities by supporting organizations that play a critical role in the following focus areas. Organizations must have tax-exempt status under IRS section 501(c)(3).

#### **FOCUS AREAS**

**Education:** We support innovative programs that help low-income and at-risk students succeed in school and prepare for post-secondary education; financial literacy training; effective mentoring programs. Priority is given to programs that reach a broad number of students, bring together community resources, support curriculum innovation, and can be replicated, if successful.

**Leadership:** Leadership is the backbone of great communities and organizations. We encourage programs that will provide leadership training and skills for emerging leaders.

**Economic Opportunity and Development:** Through the Fund, we support the creation of economic opportunity through grants to organizations that encourage self-sufficiency, and assist economic development. In low and moderate-income areas, we fund programs that support small business development and expansion, commercial revitalization, and job creation.

**Self-Sufficiency:** We support programs that assist low- and moderate-income individuals in development of skills essential to self-sufficiency, with a focus on work-entry programs, specific skills training, transportation, childcare and personal financial management training.

## **GENERAL GUIDELINES**

**Program Support:** We consider requests to support programs that are highly effective or innovative and do not duplicate other programs or services. Priority is given to programs where organizations come together to solve community issues collaboratively. Grants range up to \$10,000.

**Selection process:** A review committee of the Fund consisting of volunteers and subject matter experts evaluate all proposals, with guidance from the staff of the Princeton Area Community Foundation.

**Evaluation process:** Potential grantees must demonstrate a quality program that has the potential to make a difference, reaches a sufficient number of people, and provides a level of intervention that can be impactful and informed by best practices. Depending on the size and duration of the grant, funds may be disbursed based on performance over the life of the grant. Organizations will be required to report progress on agreed upon milestones and deliverables on an annual basis. The Fund may request additional evaluation data focused on assessing quantitative impact on the community served.

**Eligibility Criteria:** Nonprofit organizations located in the greater Princeton Mercer Central Region municipalities who are recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as tax-exempt and designated a public charity under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code and who have an active charitable registration with the State of New Jersey. Organizations must serve the interests detailed in the focus areas above. Eligible organizations include, but are not limited to, civic, arts/culture, community/economic development, health and human service agencies, environmental organizations, colleges and universities, private and public schools. ***The Fund does not provide support to individuals.***

### **Organizations NOT eligible to receive funding:**

- Organizations that are not tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3)
- Organizations in municipalities outside the Princeton Mercer Region
- General operating costs, strategic or business plans for organizations, “bricks and mortar” projects, individuals, political causes or lobbying organizations, national and international organizations, endowments, capital campaigns, debt reduction, fundraising special events and sponsorships.
- Pre-college-level private schools, colleges or universities, veteran or fraternal organizations, religious programs or activities unless funds support direct community benefit.
- Organizations that support terrorist activities or discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation or veteran status

- Religious organizations or programs (except for related programs that directly benefit the greater community—example: Catholic Charities soup kitchen)
- Political organizations, programs or campaigns, fraternal organizations (except for related programs that directly benefit the community and not the organization)
- Gifts to educational institutions for non-academic purposes, such as extra-curricular and social activities, group trips

### How do I submit a request for funding?

Complete and submit grant request **by COB - September 16, 2019** via the Princeton Area Community Foundation's Grants portal located as follows:

<https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=princetongrants>

### Grant Qualification Checklist:

- Must be a 501(c) (3) and have an active charitable registration with the State of New Jersey**
  
- Request must be for supporting programs that:**
  - Are highly effective/innovative
  - Do not duplicate other programs or services
  - Aim to solve community issues collaboratively
  - Reflect at least one of the Princeton Mercer Regional Chamber's focus areas (Education, Leadership, Economic Opportunity & Development, Self-Sufficiency)
  
- Request must serve the Princeton Mercer Region municipalities listed below:**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Borough of Allentown</li> <li>• Borough of Rocky Hill</li> <li>• Burlington County</li> <li>• Cranbury Township</li> <li>• East Windsor Township</li> <li>• Ewing Township</li> <li>• Franklin Township</li> <li>• Hamilton Township</li> <li>• Hightstown Borough</li> <li>• Hopewell Borough</li> <li>• Hopewell Township</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lawrence Township</li> <li>• Monroe Township</li> <li>• Montgomery Township</li> <li>• Pennington Borough</li> <li>• Plainsboro Township</li> <li>• Princeton</li> <li>• Robbinsville Township</li> <li>• South Brunswick Township</li> <li>• Trenton</li> <li>• Village of Kingston</li> <li>• West Windsor Township</li> </ul>
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