Grant Guidelines
Updated 04-02-24

OUR MISSION
To engage the next generation in making an impact in their community through philanthropy.

OVERVIEW
The NextGen Giving Circle was created in 2017 by an individual who wanted to participate with others in his generation to practice philanthropy and make an impact in the region. Since its founding, the Giving Circle has awarded a total of $132,500 in grants to 17 nonprofit organizations in the region. By participating in the Giving Circle, members aged 20 – 40, make monthly donations and pool their contributions to make a greater impact. NextGen is comprised of members who have contributed donations in a particular year and is supported by the Community Foundation staff. Each year the NextGen members choose their strategic funding priorities and review grant applications from nonprofit organizations in the region.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION
The NextGen Giving Circle supports the Community Foundation's commitment to improve the quality of life of the most vulnerable in our region and collaborate with community organizations that embrace diversity as a value and practice. Achieving diversity requires an enduring commitment to inclusion, fully expressed in the organizational culture, values, norms and behaviors. We will support a commitment to diversity in all its forms, encompassing but not limited to age, race, gender identity, religion, marital status, sexual orientation, national origin, and disability.

WHAT WE FUND

One-year grants: usually between $5,000 and $10,000*

* Funding amounts will vary based on availability of funds.

Projects / programs or support for operating expenses to nonprofit organizations focused on Children & Youth Services and Education & Workforce Development

- Children & Youth Services
    - Examples include proposals that address poverty, pre-school and kindergarten enrollment, foster care, child abuse and neglect and youth incarceration.
- Education & Workforce Development
    - Examples include proposals that address school district enrollment, support for reading and math competencies, high school graduation, or employment related concerns.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

An applicant must have tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Service Code, be a publicly supported charity under Section 509, and be registered with the NJ Division of Consumer Affairs as a charity in good standing.

For more information, please visit: https://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/charities/Pages/FAQ.aspx
To check your status, you may visit: https://njconsumeraffairs.state.nj.us/public-charity-search-results

Applications will be accepted from organizations that operate and provide services within the geographic region covered by the Princeton Area Community Foundation, defined as follows:
- Mercer County
- Eastern Bucks County, PA, including New Hope, Morrisville, Washington Crossing and Yardley
- Northern Burlington County, including Bordentown and Bordentown Township
- Southern Hunterdon County, including Lambertville, West Amwell, adjacent parts of East Amwell
- Southern Middlesex County, including Plainsboro and Cranbury
- Southern Somerset County, including Montgomery, Rocky Hill, and adjacent sections of Franklin Twp.

View a map of our region by clicking here.

Nonprofit organizations may apply for a grant from NextGen Giving Circle regardless of whether they have applied for funding from the Community Foundation's other grantmaking programs.

WHAT WE DO NOT FUND
- Services outside the above stated geographic region
- Statewide organizations unless:
    - The organization maintains a physical office presence within the PACF geography; and
    - All NextGen funds will only be used within the PACF geography; and
    - It is abundantly clear the proposed initiative can be restricted to the PACF geography.
- Endowment-building campaigns
- Fundraising appeals, events, and routine expenses associated with fundraising
- Fraternal and religious activities
- Lobbying and other political activities
- Nonprofits that support terrorist activities or discriminate based upon race, color, region, national origin, gender, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation or veteran status.
- Pre-college-level private schools, veteran or fraternal organizations, religious programs or activities unless funds support direct community benefit.
- Scholarships and individual sponsorships
- Sponsorship for field trips or sports activities
- Sports teams, unless part of a larger educational effort
- Sponsorship of conventions
- Tax-supported and government-operated basic programs and services (e.g., core curricular school activities or essential police and fire services)

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Your electronic application must include the following:

1. Requested amount
2. Municipalities where the project will occur
3. Focus area of the project
4. Project's operating budget
5. Project description
6. Target population
7. Dates for the project
8. Rationale about the need/impact in the community
9. Measures of success
10. Project budget
11. Organizations operating budget
12. IRS Form 990
13. Fiscal Sponsor Agreement (if applicable)

You must file your application underline online by **12:00pm on the deadline date, May 17, 2024**. Applications received after the deadline will not be reviewed. You will receive an automated email confirmation that your proposal has been received and an approximate timeline for the review process. All required documents can be uploaded into your online application. **Your application is considered incomplete and will not be reviewed if any of the required information is not received by the 12:00pm deadline**. It is very important for you to check your application thoroughly.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- The project fits within the NextGen grant guidelines.
- The grants rationale and implementation plan/methods are grounded in best practices.
- The grant has the potential to have a meaningful impact on intended beneficiaries.
- The grant is grounded in the expressed needs of its intended participants.
- The organization leverages partnerships for efficiencies and greater reach.
- The organization shares its experience with the broader community and aspires to be a leader.
- The organization is building capacity to sustain the project/program beyond the grant.
- The grant contributes to the mission, growth, and future success of the organization.

Grant Information Session(s): There will be a virtual Grant Information Session on Thursday, April 4th at 10:00am. Applicants are encouraged to attend and ask questions. This session highlights key aspects of the grant guidelines and application process. Attendance is not a prerequisite to apply for a grant; however, to attend the information session, registration is required and only granted to organizations eligible to apply. To register, please visit the NextGen Giving Circle at PACF webpage.

Award Decisions: Grant awards are funded by the NextGen Giving Circle at the Princeton Area Community Foundation. They are distinct from discretionary or other grants awarded by the Community Foundation. NextGen grant awards are recommended by the NextGen Giving Circle for approval to the Board of the Community Foundation. Grantees are notified of the decisions via email by Community Foundation staff. Grantees are encouraged to publicize their awards through press releases, newsletters, websites, and annual reports, and to acknowledge support of the *NextGen Giving Circle at the Princeton Area Community Foundation*.

Use of Grant Money: Grant money must be used exclusively for the purposes and activities specified in the grant application. Grantees may be required to return grant funds not used in the manner described in their grant proposal. Grantees should notify the Community Foundation as soon as possible if their needs or circumstances change.

Reporting Requirements: Grantees are required to submit a brief end-of-grant narrative including financial reports and all project evaluation data, lessons learned, changes that will be made in future endeavors that are similar, and any unintended consequences. Failure to complete and submit reports will result in your ineligibility to apply for future funding.

Non-Discrimination: The Community Foundation supports projects that promote inclusiveness and that do not discriminate based on race, gender, religion, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, national origin, disability, or any other characteristics protected by law.

Key Dates
- Friday, March 29   2024 Grant Application Opens
- Thursday, April 4   Virtual Grant Info Session (10:00am – 11:00am)
- Friday, May 17   Request due at 12:00pm
- September 2024   Final awards and declines