



2025 Community Impact Grants Grant Guidelines

OUR VISION

Thriving Philanthropy, Thriving Communities. When we work together as a community to grow our philanthropic resources and channel those resources equitably towards impact, we see thriving communities.

OUR MISSION

Promoting philanthropy to advance the well-being of our communities forever.

OVERVIEW

The Community Impact Grants (CIG) program is a responsive initiative of the Princeton Area Community Foundation (CF) made possible with funding from the Community Impact Grant Fund in partnership with Johnson and Johnson. We aim to make a meaningful difference for residents in the region; we seek to partner with nonprofit organizations working to impact the lives of children, individuals and families living in poverty within the CF's geographic footprint.

There will be one Community Impact Grant cycle in 2025. We will consider funding requests that bolster support, increase access, and lift-up populations in our region most impacted by poverty such as low-income families and seniors, children, adolescents and recent immigrants. Grants help to support organizations working with individuals reentering the community after incarceration, those in need of skills preparation and education, communities experiencing food insecurity, community support and strong pathways for victims of domestic violence, and active collaboration efforts between nonprofit organizations working together to address priority areas identified below. Funding decisions are approved by the CF's Board, based upon the recommendation of the Committee on Impact, a team that reviews and evaluates all applications.

WHAT WE WILL CONSIDER

The Community Foundation accepts requests for funding that support organizations within the following priority areas:

Education and Workforce Development – Before/after school and early childhood programs, tutoring, arts education, and other workforce development or educational initiatives.

Community and Capacity Building – Organizations collaborating with others to build capacity and/or strengthen community organizations addressing the CF's priority areas.

Critical Needs – Nonprofits that support *food security*, alleviate *homelessness*, and provide *mental health* services. More specifically, funding will support examples of the following critical needs:

- **Food Security** – Support for nonprofits that collect and distribute fresh and perishable food resources and initiatives that help people find and access food resources.
- **Homelessness** – Support for nonprofits that alleviate or prevent homelessness by providing emergency assistance, emergency shelter and/or permanent service-enriched housing.
- **Mental Health** – Support for nonprofits that increase access to behavior health services and culturally competent care including BIPOC and multi-lingual behavioral health providers.

THE APPLICATION

Question(s)	Description
<p>Briefly describe your organization's mission, accomplishments, and challenges</p>	<p>Briefly describe your organization's mission.</p> <p>To be eligible for consideration, your organization's mission must be focused on alleviating or addressing a root cause of poverty that impacts children, adults, and families within our geographic footprint. Your organization's history of serving economically disadvantaged populations will be considered. Describe the accomplishments and the challenges your organization faces.</p>
<p>The need in the community</p>	<p>Share how you have identified the need in the local community. Include information about who you serve and how you collaborate to achieve your goals.</p>
<p>Use of funds</p>	<p>Community Impact Grants may be used to underwrite administrative and operating expenses. This is a competitive grantmaking program; the Community Foundation seeks to invest in organizations reaching economically vulnerable populations.</p>
<p>What your organization realistically needs</p>	<p>We anticipate high demand and typically receive more applications than we can support; your request should be supported by your budget. While we are not setting a funding cap for each request, <u>please identify the specific dollar amount needed.</u></p> <p>If your request is responding to an emerging need, please be sufficiently descriptive about the need. The need must be focused on alleviating hardships caused by poverty.</p> <p>Organizations can apply for a one-year or two-year grant. Requests for multi-year grants will be considered at the discretion of the CF.</p>
<p>How you define success</p>	<p>Share what constitutes success for your organization and programs and how your organization will measure success.</p>
<p>Financial information</p>	<p>Provide your organization's most recent Form 990 which will be used to assess your overall financial health.</p>

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Organizations who received a two-year grant in 2024 are not eligible to apply in 2025.

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.nj.gov/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](#).

WHAT WE DO NOT FUND

- Services outside the above stated geographic region
- Statewide organizations unless the organization maintains a physical office within the CF's geographic footprint and serves residents within same
- Endowment-building campaigns
- Fundraising appeals, events, and routine expenses associated with fundraising
- Field trips, unless part of a larger educational effort
- Scholarships for higher education
- Organized sports teams or sports leagues
- Sponsorships or conventions
- Lobbying and other political activities
- Fraternal and religious activities
- Tax-supported and government-operated basic programs and services (e.g., core curricular school activities or essential police and fire services)

SELECTION CRITERIA

Your proposal:

- Fits within the Community Impact Grant guidelines
- Rationale that is clear and compelling
- Implementation plan/methods that are achievable
- Has a meaningful impact as demonstrated by measurable outcomes
- Leverages partnerships for efficiencies and greater reach
- Contributes to the mission, growth, and future success of your organization

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

The CF is committed to improving the quality of life of the most vulnerable in our regional footprint and collaborating with community organizations that embrace diversity as a value and practice. Achieving diversity requires an enduring commitment to inclusion, fully expressed in the organization's 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.

How Grants Are Announced	The Community Foundation first notifies all applicants of its decision by email, and then posts a full listing on its website. Grantees are encouraged to publicize their awards through press releases, social media, newsletters, websites, and annual reports, and to acknowledge support from the CF. For assistance or advice in how best to acknowledge grants, please contact Michelle Sahn, Vice President of Communications, at msahn@pacf.org or at (609) 219-1800.
A MESSAGE ABOUT THE POST-GRANT AWARD PROCESS	We expect to receive more requests for Community Impact Grants than we can fund. While we may need to decline requests, we are always seeking to learn more about applicants and establish supportive and communicative relationships. We may reach out to better understand your organization's mission and services to make informed decisions today and in the future.

Grant Information Session(s): There will be a virtual Grant Information Sessions on **Wednesday, May 21** from 1:00pm – 2:00pm. 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; however, to attend the information session, registration is required and only granted to organizations eligible to apply. To register, please visit the [Community Impact Grants](#) webpage.

Site Visits: Follow-up questions and virtual site visits may be part of the application process.

Our rationale for requesting a site visit may include the following:

- To build a relationship with your organization
- To understand the impact your organization has in our community
- To learn more about your organization's programs and emerging or persistent needs in the community.

Award Decisions: Grant awards are funded by the Community Impact Grant Fund at the Princeton Area Community Foundation. They are distinct from other discretionary grants awarded by the CF. CIG grant awards are recommended by the Committee on Impact for approval to the Board of the Community Foundation.

Use of Grant Funds: Grantees may be required to return grant funds if unable to carry out the work as described in the proposal. Grantees should notify the CF if needs or circumstances change.

Reporting Requirements: Grantees are required to submit a brief end-of-grant narrative highlighting lessons learned, future changes, and any unintended consequences. We seek to learn about the impact nonprofit partners can have with this funding. Partner feedback and context about results achieved helps us to determine how to best align future funding. Missing grantee narratives impact our ability to consider new requests for funding.

Non-Discrimination: The CF supports projects that promote inclusiveness and 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 FOR 2025

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| | 2025 Grant Application Opens |
| • Tuesday, May 6 | Grant Info Session (1:00pm – 2:00pm) via Zoom |
| • Wednesday, May 21 | Requests due at 12:00pm |
| • Wednesday, June 18 | Award and decline notices sent |
| • October 2025 | |