



Princeton Area
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

2025 Summer Initiatives 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 achieve thriving communities.

OUR MISSION

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

BACKGROUND

This Summer Initiatives grant opportunity is funded from the Princeton Area Community Foundation's Community Impact Grants fund, a discretionary fund focused on supporting nonprofit partners that serve low-income, under-resourced families and communities in the Greater Mercer County Region. This opportunity will aim to catalyze support for programs and initiatives for children/youth, ages 0-25, who cannot easily access summer programs due to economic and social reasons. Examples of youth likely to experience barriers to summer programs are low-income tweens and teens, immigrant children, children in foster care, and children living with disabilities.

OVERVIEW

Summer programs play a critical role in the lives of our children, adolescents, and teens. These programs provide structured time that serve as safety nets, reduce juvenile crime rates, and support working parents. For many families, these initiatives may be out of reach because families may not know how to access programs, enrollment may be limited, fees may be restrictive, transportation could be lacking, or meals might be needed. There may even be fewer opportunities for tweens and teens and their families.

We aim to provide funding support for summer programs explicitly targeting youth who may not otherwise have access to such opportunities. Applications should outline clear strategies and efforts to include youth who are typically underserved or excluded. We seek initiatives that offer enriching summer experiences, foster meaningful youth participation, and promote active family involvement.

Updated 01-29-25

WHAT WE FUND

- Programs that promote reading and help prevent summer learning loss.
- Initiatives that provide enriching and positive summer experiences, encourage youth participation, and foster family involvement.
- Resources to support children with limited English proficiency or language barriers.
- Staffing costs to support youth engagement in summer activities.
- General supplies necessary for summer programming and activities.
- Meal provisions for individuals who would otherwise go without food.
- Transportation to ensure access to programs.

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.
- Applicants also should be registered with the NJ Division of Consumer Affairs as a charity in good standing. For more info, please visit their Frequently Asked Questions webpage [here](#). To check your status, you may visit [click here](#).

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 Monroe, Cranbury, and Plainsboro
- 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:

- Programs or services outside of the geographic region above
- Statewide organizations unless the organization maintains a physical presence within the PACF's geography and all programming occurs within the PACF geography.
- Programs or activities for ongoing operations that are not part of a summer initiative
- Salaries for overhead and operations that are not part of a summer initiative
- Building renovations
- Fundraising appeals or event sponsorships
- Lobbying and other political activities
- Fraternal and religious activities
- Tax-supported and government-operated basic programs and services, such as core curricular school activities, and essential police and fire services

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Your electronic application must include the following:

1. Organization name
2. Executive Director name, tenure, and contact info
3. Geographic Area
4. Mission Statement
5. Most recent Form 990 (upload)
6. Updates
7. Project Name, description and history
8. Municipality and facility where the initiative will occur
9. Target population and reach
10. Age range of those served
11. Outcome measurement
12. Outcome estimate
13. Program dates
14. How you plan to use the funds
15. Project Budget (upload)
16. Amount requested
17. Fiscal sponsor agreement (if applicable)

Applications must be submitted online by 12:00pm on February 28, 2025. Late applications will not be reviewed. You will receive an automated email confirmation that your proposal has been received.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Fit with the Summer Initiatives Guidelines
- Clear outreach to underserved, low-income, disadvantaged populations
- Clarity of the stated need
- Realistic budget
- Priority given to:
 - Teen and tween programs and efforts to address inclusion of youth normally excluded from summer programs, and
 - Proposals that address equity for low-income families and communities

Award Decisions: Grantees are notified of the Fund’s decisions via email. Grantees are encouraged to publicize their awards through press releases, newsletters, websites, and annual reports, and to acknowledge support of 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 if their needs or circumstances change.

Reporting Requirements: Grantees are required to submit a brief end-of-grant narrative that includes a summary of youth served. Failure to complete and submit reports will result in your ineligibility to apply for future funding.

Key Dates

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| • Friday, January 31 | Application opens |
| • Friday, Feb 14 | Virtual Grant Info Session 11:30am–12:30pm |
| • Friday, Feb 28 | Request due at 12:00pm |
| • Friday, April 11 | Award and decline notices sent |
| • Friday, April 25 | Payments made |