



GRANT MAKING GUIDELINES

We provide funding and create connections between community-minded nonprofits and the resources they need. We inspire ideas and ignite action.

INTRODUCTION

The Grant County Community Foundation is a tax-exempt public charity governed by a volunteer Board of Directors broadly representing southwest New Mexico, including Grant, Hidalgo, Luna and Catron Counties. The Board has adopted a strategic framework to guide its community investments and works with nonprofit, educational and government partners to improve the quality of life in southwest New Mexico. Our interests are broad and grants are generally based on the priorities and needs of those organizations we choose to support. The goal of the foundation grant making efforts is to seek and identify where our grant making will make significant and lasting differences. Most awarded grants come from charitable funds created by donors to fulfill their personal giving goals.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The tax-exempt or charitable group or organization applying must conduct the proposed activities within southwest New Mexico for the benefit of those communities. Organizations that do not have their own non-profit status may apply through a fiscal sponsor. A signed copy of the Fiscal Acknowledgement Form must be submitted to the Foundation with the grant application.

The Foundation does NOT make grants to the following:

- Organizations where grant money would be used to advance a particular political or religious doctrine.
- Individuals
- Debt reduction
- Building of endowments for organizations other than the Foundation
- Purchase of property
- Payment for existing obligations or replenishing other sources used to pay such obligations
- To supplant existing funding resources
- Agency operating costs

The Foundation does not accept unsolicited grant proposals.

Grants will be made only to:

- Organizations that have non-profit and charitable status;
- Organizations that are able to document their responsible, fiscal management and adequate accounting procedures;
- Projects or programs that are proposed in writing by the organization's governing body.

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

The Foundation seeks to partner with and support nonprofit organizations that create long-term solutions to identified community priorities.

Organizations are limited to one proposal per grant cycle.

Applications must be submitted using the Foundation on-line grant application and completed within the stated time frames of the application process.

Grants are made for one year. The Foundation encourages organizations to develop realistic plans for long-term sustainability that do not depend upon recurring support from the Foundation Competitive Grants Program.

REVIEW PROCESS

Grants will be reviewed by a committee of community volunteers and members of the Foundation Board of Directors. Review committee members are selected to represent the broad geographic and professional diversity of southwest New Mexico. Award funding will be dispersed when the grant contract is signed.

Grants are competitive and selection is based on the following criteria:

- Strength of the proposed project
 - Addresses a demonstrated community or organizational need or opportunity
 - Has a strong likelihood of success and impact on the community
- Applicant's organizational capacity
 - Leadership and experience capacity
 - Organization's track record, service delivery and community impact history
 - Overall financial health of the organization

The Grant Committee puts forward recommendations to the Foundation Board for approval.

GRANTEE EXPECTATIONS

Grantees are expected to do the following:

- Submit mid-year and year-end reports that share progress and lessons learned.
- Maintain the organization's tax exempt status
- Participate in feedback surveys
- Meet with the Foundation and other supporters, as requested
- Reference the Foundation support in media and press releases.

The 2018 grant-making cycle awarded a total of \$20,000 to five organizations in southwest New Mexico:

- The Gila Valley Library was awarded \$5,000 in support of constructing an addition to their library that will be used for programs designed for community youth.
- The Mimbres Culture Heritage Site was awarded \$5,000 in support of their programs that enhance school-aged children's appreciation and understanding of the importance of preserving our local archeological sites.
- The Lotus Center was awarded \$2,500 in support of the Center's programs that teach yoga in the Silver City public schools.
- Deming Silver Linings was awarded \$5,000 in support of a soup kitchen that provides hot meals to anyone who comes twice a week.
- The Virus Theater was awarded \$2,500 to help kick-start fundraising for a heating and cooling system for the historic El Sol Theatre.