COMPETITIVE GRANT SEEKER GUIDELINES

OVERVIEW

The Waccamaw Community Foundation's purpose is to build sustainable philanthropy to strengthen our community. One of the ways we do that is through meaningful and impactful grants programs. The Foundation is made up of several different types of funds, including Donor Advised, Restricted, Field of Interest and Organization Endowments. These funds comprise the majority of the grants we make, and do not accept unsolicited funding requests from nonprofits. These grant guidelines apply only to grants awarded from the competitive grant programs.

The following guidelines are intended to provide general direction and are not a guarantee for success in obtaining a grant. The Foundation's grants committees evaluate each application not only on its merit, but also its alignments with the goals of the fund that is awarding the grant.

ELIGIBILITY

The Waccamaw Community Foundation considers applications from organizations that:

- Are determined by the I.R.S. as being a public charity under section 501(c)(3) of I.R.S. code, a government agency or recognized house of worship that are exempt from income tax.
- Provide programs and services to Horry and/or Georgetown counties.
- Do not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, race, color, sexual orientation, national/ethnic origin or disability.

FUNDING PRIORITIES

Funding priority is given to proposals that include one or more of the following facets:

- sensitive to an emerging need
- address existing needs in new and imaginative ways
- initiation of a promising pilot
- designed to reduce cost and increase efficiency of nonprofit organizations
- direct impact on persons with need
- plans for necessary funding to continue after the Foundation's support has ended.

The Waccamaw Community Foundation looks for proposals that address the specific priorities of the funds to which organizations are applying.

The Waccamaw Community Trust Fund supports a wide range of causes that share one common purpose: to improve the lives of individuals and families living in Horry and Georgetown counties.

The Carver Educational Fund was established to give children, grades K-12, access to programs that improve and enrich their education. These grants focus specifically on the core subject areas of language arts, math, science, social studies, health & physical education, and the arts.

Just as the Foundation has priorities for funding, there are also applications that either are not eligible for funding or are generally less competitive. If you have any questions about whether your application would be considered, please contact the Foundation at 843-357-4483 or info@mywcf.org. Applications that are in support of the following are discouraged from submitting:

- private foundations, individuals, political or lobbying organizations
- strictly religious purposes, including worship, instruction or recruitment
- publication of books
- conferences, dinners, fundraisers, or other special one-time events
- reimbursements, including for programs that have already taken place
- capital campaigns or endowments
- projects that are typically the funding responsibility of federal, state or local governments

LIMITATIONS

Applications that meet eligibility requirements will be considered for general operating support; specific project or program support; or purchase of equipment and supplies.

An organization may only be awarded one grant per fund during a 12-month period. If an organization has previously received a grant from Waccamaw Community Foundation, the application will only be considered if a status report has been submitted from the organization's most recent successful funding request.

EVALUATION

Once applications have been submitted, Foundation staff review applications to determine that they meet basic eligibility requirements. The applications are then reviewed by the Grants Committee, comprised of members of the community who live and/or work in the service area of each fund. The Committee reviews applications in three areas: capacity, impact and measure of success and determines which programs are funded.

- When considering **capacity**, the Committee evaluates an organization's capacity (financial, personnel, leadership) to achieve its mission, as relevant for this proposal. The Committee considers several factors, including the following questions:
  - Is the budget clearly detailed? Does it demonstrate that the organization has considered all costs necessary for the project?
  - If the total cost of the project is more than the requested amount, does the organization have plans for how to make up the difference?
  - Can the annual budget support the proposed project, in addition to current programming (if relevant)?
  - Are there sufficient personnel qualified and able to carry out the proposed project?
- The area of **impact** demonstrates how effectively the described methods will address the community need. The Committee considers several factors, including the following questions:
  - Is the area being addressed in the proposal a need expressed by the community? Has the organization considered the assets and opportunities of the community and included them in the planning where relevant?
  - Is there a clearly laid out plan for executing the project? Are the steps explained likely to result in an effective impact on the community?
  - Are the methods used efficient? Do they make good use of resources?
  - Will the project have a significant impact on the proposed population?
- The Committee considers the organization's ability to **measure success** using the proposed methods by asking questions such as the following, among other factors:
  - Does the organization clearly define what would qualify as "success" for their proposal?
  - Does the organization clearly detail a plan for measuring their success, including what metrics will be used?
  - Will the metrics proposed accurately measure the impact of the project?

Prior to or following the Grants Committee consideration of applications, organizations may be contacted to arrange a site visit. Site visits are intended to familiarize Foundation staff and Committee members with the organization, and allow for a more extensive evaluation of a proposal.

CONFIDENTIALITY & CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Committee deliberations during the grant review process are held in confidence. However, Foundation staff will share information as needed to assist organizations, enhance programs and improve applications.