



AKRON
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

ENRICHING LIVES SINCE 1955

Funding Guidelines

It is the unique responsibility of a community foundation to fund a range of quality-of-life programs throughout a geographic location. Thus, Akron Community Foundation's grants are as diverse as Summit County itself.

What We Fund

While their programming differs, all Akron Community Foundation grantees have things in common:

Organizational strength

We support efficient and effective nonprofit organizations with the capacity to significantly improve the community. We value organizations that demonstrate sustainability, honesty and transparency while remaining true to their mission.

Systemic impact

We support collaborative efforts that help individuals, families and neighborhoods thrive by addressing immediate needs while creating holistic improvement within Summit County. We prefer to fund organizations that address the underlying cause of a problem and make a lasting improvement.

Accountability

We serve as stewards of our donors' community investments. We honor the charitable intentions of these donors to help them meet current and future needs of our community. As a result, we hold ourselves and our grantees to the highest standards of ethics, integrity, service and fiduciary responsibility.

Strengthened capacity of the nonprofit sector

We support efforts that build governance, management, financial and organizational capacities of nonprofit agencies and the sector as a whole. We also strive to create partnerships that reduce duplicative and ineffective programs.

Inclusiveness

We honor the diverse strengths, needs, voices and backgrounds within our community, and we support organizations whose missions promote equity and inclusiveness.

What We Don't Fund

Our Community Fund grants improve life for all residents of Summit County. Therefore, we do not make grants for:

- Endowments
- Scholarships
- Direct financial support to individuals
- Religious organizations for religious purposes
- Private non-operating foundations



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In accordance with our grantmaking priorities, we generally do not fund:

- Newly established nonprofit organizations that duplicate existing services
- Curriculum for schools
- Disease-specific programs
- Economic development initiatives already being addressed by the Fund for Our Economic Future
- Programs at parochial schools that benefit only their students
- Multi-year grants

Not sure if you should apply for a Community Fund grant? [Tell us about your program.](#) One of our community investment staff members will contact you to discuss your funding options.

Questions?

Please contact John Garofalo, vice president of community investment, at 330-436-5624 or jgarofalo@akroncf.org or Cristina González Alcalá, community investment officer, at 330-436-5626 or cgonzalezalcala@akroncf.org.