CFMC 2023-2024 Competitive Application Process FAQ

Organizations are strongly encouraged to read this FAQ and the Instructions PDF prior to submission.

1. What organizations may submit an application?
   • All 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations and 170(c)1 organizations able to receive a tax-deductible contribution, such as schools, faith-based organizations, and other public entities are eligible.
   • We are not able to fund individuals or businesses directly, labor unions, or other 501(c) organizations.

2. Is there a maximum amount our organization may request?
   • Application requests of up to $5,000 will be considered.

3. How are applications submitted?
   • CFMC uses an online application submission process.
   • The link to the application is on the Grants Program page.

4. Is there a geographic focus for this fund?
   • Yes, funding requests must directly impact any, some, or all of the fifteen (15) towns of Middlesex County.

5. What is the application process timeline?
   • Spring Cycle Applications are due Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.
   • CFMC Grants Committees will review applications during April and May.
   • Recommendations will be presented to the CFMC Board of Directors in June.
   • Applicants will be notified of the recommendation regarding their application during the last week of June 2024.

6. Will CFMC be the sole funder of a program that an organization is applying for?
   • No, CFMC will not consider applications where we are the sole funder.

7. Is the process restricted to priority needs and issues or open to all requests?
   • The process is open to all tax-exempt organizations serving Middlesex County.
   • During the Spring 2024 cycle, organizations seeking general operating support or project/program-specific support serving a broad demographic may apply. We will also be reviewing applications that specifically serve women and girls, veterans and seniors, and organizations providing animal welfare, rescue/rehabilitation, and animal-human therapeutic services:
     • Spring 2024 Cycle
       • General Operating Support for 501(c)(3) organizations;
       • Programs or Projects serving a broad group, demographic, or region within any of our areas of need/impact;
       • Requests to the:
         o Mary Janvrin and Natalie Janvrin Wiggins Fund for Birds, Other Animals, and Nature (Janvrin Fund),
         o Sari A. Rosenbaum Fund for Women & Girls (including programs serving women, girls, and individuals identifying as female),
         o St. Luke's Home Fund for Veterans & Seniors,
         o Animals: Respect & Friendship Fund (ARF!),
         o And other CFMC Field of Interest Funds.
     • The Community Foundation is interested in requests for funding that address all aspects of the community’s well-being, an organization’s ability, adaptability, and forward-thinking to serve the community, as well as needs and issues that may be a result of or outcome from the issues directly related to the current pandemic situation.

Updated January 16, 2024
Funding requests are to support organizational needs as of January 1, 2024.

8. Are there certain items CFMC won’t consider supporting:
   • Grants made directly to individuals.
   • Initiatives that regrant CFMC funds to other organizations.
   • Organizations that, in their constitution, bylaws or practice, discriminate against a person or group on the basis of age, race, national origin, ethnicity, gender, disability, sexual orientation or identification, political affiliation, or religious belief.
   • Capital improvement and building projects.
   • New staff positions or hazard pay expenses.
   • Recouping lost revenue which occurred prior to July 1, 2024.
   • Programs or materials that would normally be included in the regular operating budget for municipal/government agencies or schools.
   • Annual fundraising campaigns or event sponsorships.
   • Payment of debt or legal settlements or Repayment of SBA, PPP, or other COVID-19 related loans.
   • Political or partisan purposes, campaigns, or lobbying activities.
   • Projects that exclusively serve religious purposes, although religious organizations providing non-religious community services will be considered.
   • Endowments, reserve funds, capital campaigns, or annual fund drives.

9. Will applying for or receiving ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funding prohibit an application to CFMC?
   • No, this will not impact your application or eligibility for funding.
     o However, as part of our due diligence, and to better understand needs our nonprofits and access to revenue, we do ask the status of any current loans or current funding applications which have been submitted and/or received.

10. Can our organization submit applications for all types of funding in each application process (Fall and Spring)?
    • No – one application per organization will be accepted.
      o Only one (1) Funding request may be awarded annually – if an award is received in the Fall, the organization may not submit a Funding request in the Spring.

11. Our program is collaborative with two or more nonprofits involved – do we submit one application or may each organization apply?
    • One organization applies on behalf of all the partners/collaborators – One (1) application per program/project

12. Our organization has two programs in mind – one that is collaborative and one that is stand alone and specific to our organization only, may we apply for both?
    • No. Your organization must decide which program to submit for consideration.

13. We have an idea but no specifics, no timeline to development and implement the program yet, and no ideas of possible partners, may we apply now?
    • If there is no clear program development and implementation plan yet, you should wait for another application process to submit an application.