

## 2024 Community Partnerships FAQs and Answers

### General Questions

1. Who is eligible to apply for a Community Partnership Grant?  
**All applicants must be a registered 501 c 3 nonprofit with the Ohio Secretary of State in good standing.**  
  
**Governmental and for-profit entities are not eligible for funding and should not apply.**  
  
**The intent is to fund innovative programs or projects of organizations that have not received programmatic support from previous Community Partnership grant cycles (i.e. 2022, 2023, and Health Equity).**
2. Can an institution or organization submit more than one application?  
**No: Only one application per organization will be accepted.**
3. How long does my organization need to be in existence to apply for the grant?  
**There is no length of time that an organization has been in existence to apply for the grant. However, organizations must include a copy of the notification from the IRS that your organization has been granted 501(c)(3) status to be considered for funding.**
4. If an organization received a COVID-19 Recovery or COVID-19 Capital Grant from Franklin County, can they still apply for the community partnerships grant?  
**Yes.**
5. Do you have a slide deck or a link where I can learn more about programs and projects that are eligible?  
**Yes: A link to our website is [here](#) and the recorded webinar can be viewed [here](#).**
6. What is the maximum amount that can be requested for one year of funding?  
**Each organization is eligible to apply for an annual amount up to \$500,000. Pending program performance reports, each organization selected for funding will have the option to renew their grant for two additional one-year periods.**
7. Is the County able to share how much the pool of dollars is for this grant opportunity?  
**The County awarded approximately three-and-a-half million dollars in each of the last two application cycles, and it is anticipated a similar amount will be awarded this year.**
8. Can you please tell me if the Community Partnership Grants receive any funds originating from federal sources?  
**No. All funds for this grant are supported by the County's General Fund.**
9. What is the grant's start and end date?  
**The grant cycle for the first year is July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025. Pending program performance reports, each organization selected for funding will have the option to renew their grant for two additional one-year periods.**
10. When will the grant decisions be announced?  
**We hope to notify awardees shortly after the review process. Those organizations awarded funding will be notified of the process for entering into the grant agreement.**

## e-CImpact

11. If I'm having an issue submitting my application, who should I contact?  
If you're having trouble submitting your application, please contact the United Way of Central Ohio help email at [Reporting.Help@uwcentralohio.org](mailto:Reporting.Help@uwcentralohio.org). If you're having trouble submitting your application just before the deadline, please contact us before the deadline via email at [CPApplications@franklincountyohio.gov](mailto:CPApplications@franklincountyohio.gov).
12. Can we view the full list of application questions outside of e-CImpact?  
No. The application questions can only be found on the e-CImpact site linked [here](#).
13. In addition to the actual application in E-C impact, is there a separate RFP or guidance document that we should be referring to? Anything that discusses eligibility, scoring rubric, other requirements, etc?  
All information regarding this grant can be found on our website [here](#).

## Grant Application

14. What are the allowable expenses for this grant?  
When completing the budget, please refer to the following for the categories of eligible expenses:
- **Salaries and wages:** Compensation paid to employees for their work on the funded program.
  - **Employee Benefits/Taxes:** Additional costs associated with employing staff, such as healthcare benefits and payroll taxes.
  - **Professional Fees:** Payments made to consultants or external experts for specialized services related to the funded program.
  - **Program Materials and Supplies:** Costs for purchasing materials and supplies directly used in implementing the funded program activities.
  - **Printing and Postage:** Expenses related to printing materials and mailing documents, including postage fees for the funded program.
  - **Occupancy, Insurance, and Telephone:** Costs associated with office space rental, insurance premiums, and telephone services utilized for the funded program.
  - **Travel, Training, and Conferences:** Expenditures for travel, accommodation, and registration fees for staff attending training sessions, conferences, or funded program-related travel.
  - **Technology platform or services:** Expenses for acquiring or subscribing to technological tools or services necessary for program implementation or communication.
  - **Indirect expenses allocation/ incl. depreciation:** Allocation of overhead costs, including depreciation of assets, that cannot be directly attributed to specific funded program activities.  
*This category is considered administrative funding and should not exceed 5% of the total amount requested.*
  - **Other Expenses:** Miscellaneous costs not covered by other budget categories but essential for carrying out the funded program effectively.
15. What are unallowable expenses for this grant?  
Unallowable expenses include, but are not limited to:
- **Political activities or lobbying efforts.**
  - **Purchase of alcoholic beverages or entertainment expenses.**
  - **Personal expenses for staff or volunteers not directly related to the project.**
  - **Expenses unrelated to the project's objectives or scope as outlined in the grant agreement.**

- Investments or financial speculation.
- Payment of fines or penalties.
- Activities or programs that discriminate based on race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or any other protected characteristic.
- Expenses incurred before the grant period or after the grant expiration date unless specifically allowed by the grant agreement.

16. Do the terms “project” and “program” differ or are the words used interchangeably?

**The terms can be used interchangeably. Please include any relevant information you see fit.**

17. Do you have any criteria for grant decisions and a scoring grid that you will be using?

**Yes. Due to the competitive nature of this process, criteria and scoring metrics will be utilized. Criteria for scoring will include: Summary of Project, Partnerships and Program Sustainability, Organizational capacity, Achievable Goals and Measurements, Budget Justification, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.**

18. Can the grant request be to support an organization’s overall operating budget rather than a specific program or project?

**No. The intent of the Community Partnerships Grant is to fund innovative programs or projects and not provide gap funding to organizations.**

19. Do you have any suggestions or templates for a sustainability plan?

**Franklin County Board of Commissioners do not endorse any sustainability planning models or resources, however [here](#) is a sustainability template.**

20. If your organization does not have audited financials, are you still eligible to apply? If so, what should we submit in lieu of an audit?

**Yes. If your organization does not have a financial audit, please upload a copy of Board approved financials and a statement explaining why an audit was not conducted.**

21. Does FY refer to the organization’s fiscal year or the County’s fiscal year?

**Please adhere to the instructions included in the budget section.**

22. Is there a cap on administrative costs?

**Yes. All administrative costs are up to 5% of the total grant award.**

23. If we are requesting funding from the City of Columbus for our program but have not heard back on whether we will receive it, would it be better to answer no, or answer yes and explain that our request is pending?

**Please complete the application as you see fit and include any information you deem to be helpful.**

24. If we received funds through another governmental source, would that exclude us from Applying?

**If an organization received funds from the City of Columbus, State of Ohio, Federal agency, or any other outsource, they are eligible to apply for funding. Organizations are encouraged to identify other funding sources to leverage County funding.**

25. We have both a Governing Board and an Advisory Board? Should we report the demographics of both?

**The demographics should be provided for the Board that is responsible for ensuring the sound administration of the organization.**