

HUMAN SERVICES FUND OF ERIE COUNTY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW WERE THE FOCUS AREAS FOR THIS GRANT OPPORTUNITY DETERMINED?

The Foundation is proud to partner with donors who are committed to making a meaningful, targeted impact in the community. The focus areas for this fund reflect the donor's specific interests, informed by the Foundation's broader strategic priorities and understanding of community need.

CAN I SUBMIT A PROJECT THAT IS ONLY 12 MONTHS IN DURATION?

Yes. One-year projects are eligible and will be considered. However, projects that demonstrate the ability to build capacity and sustain impact over time are encouraged, and multi-year proposals are preferred.

WHAT TYPES OF EXPENSES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING?

This grant offers flexibility in how funds may be used. Eligible expenses include:

- Capital purchases
- Facility improvements that enhance safety, accessibility, or service capacity
- Salaries and wages tied to direct service delivery, coordination, or capacity-building
- Program or service delivery costs
- Consultant-supported activities such as planning, evaluation, training, or systems improvement

Funds may not be used for:

- Reimbursement of expenses already incurred
- Structural improvements to facilities not owned by the organization
- General operating expenses unrelated to the project
- Religious activities
- Fundraising events
- Seed or start-up funding for new organizations



ARE PRE-APPLICATION MEETINGS REQUIRED FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY?

Pre-application meetings are not required and will not be offered for this grant opportunity. Foundation staff are available to assist with technical questions related to the application but cannot provide guidance on proposal content.

WHAT ARE THE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS?

All grantees will participate in a reporting conversation with the Community Impact team at 12-month intervals.

For multi-year projects, continued funding is contingent upon demonstrated progress toward proposed activities, outputs, and outcomes, as well as responsible stewardship of funds.

At the conclusion of the grant period, all grantees will complete a final reporting conversation to share results, challenges, and key learnings.

HOW WILL PROPOSALS BE EVALUATED?

Projects must clearly align with the purpose and focus areas outlined in the RFP to be considered.

Applications will be evaluated based on the following:

- Use of data and/or community input to define need
- Clear, measurable outputs and outcomes
- Impact on underserved or high-need populations
- Organizational capacity to implement the project
- Strength of partnerships and coordination with existing services
- Potential for sustained impact beyond the grant period

AM I ELIGIBLE TO APPLY IF I HAVE RECEIVED OTHER ERIE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FUNDING RECENTLY?

Yes. This is a separate funding opportunity and receiving funding from other Erie Community Foundation grant programs does not impact your eligibility. Organizations may apply for and receive support from multiple programs, as appropriate.

HOW MANY YEARS OF FUNDING CAN I REQUEST?

Applicants can apply for an award of \$40,000 per year. Multi-year requests must clearly outline the proposed budget and activities for each year. Continued funding is subject to annual review and approval.



WILL THIS BE AN ANNUAL OPPORTUNITY?

The Foundation intends for the Human Services Fund of Erie County to remain an ongoing funding opportunity. However, because this program includes the option for multi-year commitments, funding availability for new applicants may vary year to year depending on existing grant obligations and available resources.

Applicants will have the opportunity to receive funding in a second and third year based on meeting reporting requirements and demonstrating satisfactory progress toward project goals. This project could be eligible for up to three years of funding, with the opportunity for renewable funding in years 2 and/or 3.

CAN ORGANIZATIONS REQUEST LESS THAN THE MAXIMUM GRANT AMOUNT?

No. Applicants are required to request the maximum funding amount available through this opportunity.

The Foundation and donor designed this program to support projects with the potential for significant, measurable impact, and full funding requests help maximize both organizational and community benefit.

