

Annual Grant Cycle Eligibility Guidelines & Funding Exclusions

Eligibility Guidelines

Eligible applicants must be **501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations serving Benton and Franklin counties.**

Grants are awarded through an application-based process, and organizations may submit **one application per grant cycle.**

Grant awards typically range from **\$500 to \$10,000**, with a limited number of awards exceeding \$10,000. The average grant award is approximately **\$4,000**. Organizations considering a request greater than \$10,000 are encouraged to contact 3 Rivers Community Foundation staff before applying.

Interviews may be requested as part of the review process for some or all applicants.

Funding decisions are announced in **November**. Award recipients receive **two complimentary tickets** to the Celebration of Philanthropy luncheon, where grants are formally recognized and presented.

Applicants should carefully review the funding exclusions below before submitting an application.

Funding Exclusions

The following requests and organizations are not eligible for funding through the Annual Grant Cycle:

- Fundraising activities & Sponsorship, including annual campaigns, donor drives, galas, auctions, golf tournaments, fundraising breakfasts, benefit dinners, and other events or activities whose primary purpose is to raise funds. Community events that provide a direct public benefit and are not primarily fundraisers may be considered.
- Capital campaigns and capital expenses
- Debt reduction, repayment, or retirement
- Endowment funds
- Matching fund requirements for other grants
- Political campaigns, political activities, or lobbying efforts

- Projects, purchases, or activities completed before grant award decisions are announced
- Re-granting or redistributing funds to other organizations
- Religious activities intended primarily for worship, religious instruction, or proselytizing. *Organizations with religious affiliations may be eligible if the funded program serves the broader community regardless of religious belief.
- Public, private, or charter schools
- Parent Teacher Organizations (PTOs)
- Service clubs and service club foundations
- Sports teams and athletic clubs
- Organizations that discriminate based on age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, or disability

Questions?

If you are unsure whether your organization or proposed project is eligible, please contact 3 Rivers Community Foundation prior to submitting an application.*