Grant Guidelines

About Us

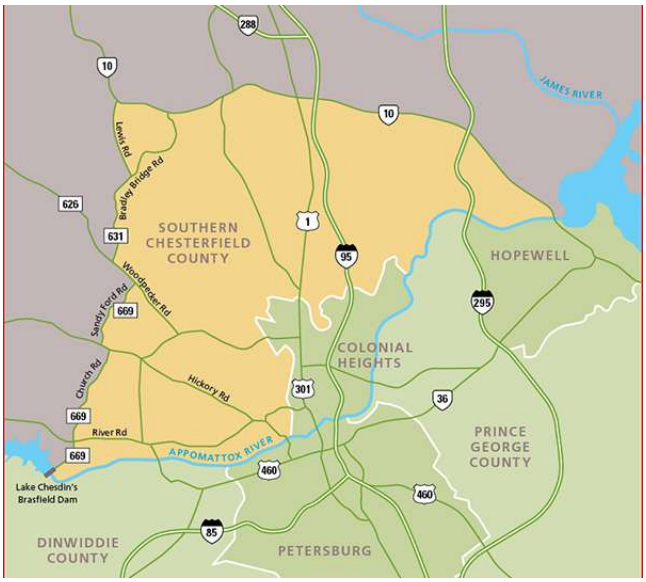
Vision: Our service area is recognized for its quality of life, many opportunities for its residents to succeed, sustainable nonprofit sector, and cultural and historic attractions.

Mission: The Cameron Foundation strives to transform the Tri-Cities and surrounding counties into a healthy, vibrant and economically vital region by strategically leveraging resources for community impact.

In working towards this mission, the Foundation focuses on six outcome areas, including healthy residents, education excellence, cultural richness, a vital economy, vibrant communities, and dynamic nonprofits.

Our service area includes the cities of Petersburg, Colonial Heights and Hopewell; the counties of Dinwiddie, Prince George and Sussex; and, a portion of Chesterfield County lying south of Route 10. Further defining the Foundation's service area in southern Chesterfield, the western boundary begins at Route 10 and Lewis Road then follows south along Bradley Bridge Road (SR 631); jogs at Woodpecker Road (SR 626); and, proceeds along SR 669 (Sandy Ford, Church and Chesdin roads). The border ends at Lake Chesdin's Brasfield Dam, where the John J. Radcliffe Appomattox River Park is located.

Cameron's Service Area in Southern Chesterfield County



On the Foundation's website, The Cameron Foundation's Service Area Address Checker helps to determine if an address is within this catchment area. Simply enter an address, and the map will pinpoint the location and respond whether it is within Cameron's footprint.

Nonprofits applying to the Foundation must hold a 501(c)(3) designation by the IRS. Recognizing that area governmental agencies may provide a variety of services in tandem with nonprofit organizations, the Foundation views these agencies as vital partners to the nonprofit sector and is open to supporting a limited set of activities of public entities.

Duration
The Foundation will make grants on a single-year or multi-year basis.

For single-year awards, applicants may seek renewal of support for a previously funded project or purpose from year-to-year. In these cases, each grant will require an application and a formal review, and renewal funding will be contingent on satisfactory outcome reporting of previous grants.

The Foundation no longer has a step-down policy for organizations receiving several grants for the same purpose. However, beginning in 2025 as Year 1, grantees receiving five or more consecutive grants will be required to "sit out" for one year before becoming eligible to reapply for funding. This policy applies regardless of whether the funding is for a specific program, project, general operations or capital purpose.

When considering multi-year requests, the Foundation will determine eligibility on a case-by-case basis. Organizations receiving a multi-year grant do not need to reapply each year for this funding, but regular reporting is required, and release of subsequent funding will be contingent on satisfactory outcome reporting for the prior year's activities. Grantees receiving multi-year funding for a cumulative total of six years will be required to "sit out" for one year before reapplying for grant funding. This policy applies regardless of whether the funding is for a specific program, project, general operations or capital purpose.

Regardless of the duration of a grant, no grant funds may be used for expenses incurred prior to the date of approval by The Cameron Foundation's Board.

Special Considerations
The Cameron Foundation strives to assure that its limited resources are allocated to their highest valued uses. Therefore, in approaching the Foundation with requests, prospective applicants should be aware of these considerations:

- The Foundation supports organizations and activities that employ creative responses to problems that address root causes rather than symptoms and which build upon community strengths.
- The Foundation pays particular attention to efforts that expand access to opportunities for people from low-income and otherwise disadvantaged communities and that demonstrate a commitment to diversity and inclusiveness in the targeting and delivery of services.
- The Foundation endeavors to foster communication, cooperation and coordination among service providers and, therefore, will seek to encourage and reward collaboration and partnerships among its grantees.
- The Foundation seeks to build programs and services that are sustainable and that encourage strong and engaged board, staff and/or volunteer leadership.

Strategic Priorities
The Cameron Foundation has identified two inter-related strategic priorities of health care and community and economic development, including support of initiatives that:

- Increase access to and utilization of quality, appropriate and culturally relevant health care; and,
- Invest with partners in sustainable workforce development and increased preparation for access to living wage jobs.

These two priorities are areas of emphasis within the broader scope of the Foundation's funding interests and not exclusive of Cameron's other funding interests as outlined below.

Funding Interests

The Cameron Foundation provides support in six specific program areas:

Health Care

The social determinants of health (SDOH) are the social, economic and environmental conditions in which people live, learn, work, play and worship that impact a wide range of health conditions, daily functioning and quality of life. Social determinants of health, such as the built environment, safe and affordable housing, access to education, employment, public safety, access to healthy foods, access to local emergency/health services and environments free of life-threatening toxins, can all have an influence on population health outcomes. Data demonstrates that SDOH accounts for half of the factors that shape health outcomes. Demographic groups across which health disparities often occur can include gender, race/ethnicity, income, sexual identity and orientation, disability status or special health care needs, and geographic location, including neighborhood and urban-rural disparities (The Cameron Foundation 2023 Community Health Needs Assessment). The Foundation supports programs that provide access to health services for the poor, uninsured, under-insured and underserved. This program area also provides for capital improvements and technological advancements in healthcare. Our grantmaking strategy is data driven and supports the following priorities:

- **Access to Health Services:** Access to clinical care is an important community health indicator and an important factor in how well community members can access preventive services, such as health screenings, routine tests or exams, or vaccinations. The importance of being able to easily access health care can vary widely by the geographic location, availability of health insurance and the number of health providers within the community. The Foundation supports funding to improve access to primary health care services through community-based clinics and other health support service activities.
- **Behavioral Health:** The Foundation supports improved access to community-based behavioral health services for children, youth and adults. Service models that demonstrate integration of primary health care and behavioral health services and promote community collaboration among providers are Foundation priorities in this program area.
- **Prevention Services/Health Education:** Health outcomes in communities tend to vary with the level of education of the population. The Foundation supports the integration of primary health care and health education with an emphasis on best practices in the field. Health education programs should demonstrate the ability to evaluate and measure indicators that demonstrate behavior change and improvement in health status outcomes.
- **Child Health/K-12 Health:** Poverty creates barriers to opportunities, health services, healthy food, safe and affordable housing and other necessities that contribute to the poor health status of families. This region has some of the highest rates of children and youth living below the federal poverty level (FPL). The Foundation supports evidence-based programs that demonstrate the participant's behavior change and increased knowledge, skills and abilities to make good choices that result in positive health status outcomes.

Community & Economic Development

The Foundation supports a holistic approach to community and economic development, including revitalization of distressed neighborhoods; workforce development and increasing workforce quality; and, expanding the capacity of economic development agencies to successfully pursue local and regional economic development opportunities.

- **Workforce Development and Workforce Quality:** The Foundation supports programs that address a holistic approach to job training, readiness and placement. Priority is placed on programs that help people obtain and remain in living wage jobs, with an emphasis on programs serving participants that have significant barriers to employment. The Foundation uses the Massachusetts Institute of Technology living wage calculator to determine the pay-rates necessary to meet this standard.
- **Regional Economic Development Capacity:** The Foundation supports building the capacity of local and regional economic development agencies. The Foundation has a special interest in supporting organizations that utilize a coordinated approach with economic development partners and local governments which builds upon community assets to attract businesses and investment to Southside communities.
- **Revitalization of Distressed Neighborhoods:** In communities of greatest need, the Foundation supports the implementation of neighborhood specific plans that include development of quality affordable housing which is architecturally appropriate, and improvements to green spaces, trails and landscaping essential to neighborhood renewal and healthy communities.

Human Services

The Foundation supports programs that provide basic human needs and promote the development of life skills in children, youth and adults in an effort to improve the quality of life for individuals and families in the service area. Our grantmaking strategy supports the following priorities:

- **Basic Human Needs:** The Foundation supports organizations whose primary mission is to provide for the basic needs of residents living in the service area, through the funding of food pantries, emergency shelters, emergency assistance programs, and housing assistance programs. This includes implementation of strategies that promote access to fresh foods, nutrition and wellness initiatives in communities.
- **Family and Youth:** The Foundation supports programs that focus on prevention of child abuse, violence and substance abuse. This priority area addresses quality childcare, afterschool programs and summer programming that provide enrichment activities with a focus on youth development, life skills, parental engagement and improved access to wellness opportunities.
- **Senior Support Services:** The Foundation supports programs that improve the quality of life for seniors by focusing on the provision of support services, life skills education, and wellness opportunities. Priority in this program area is given to programs that can demonstrate a change in the knowledge, skills and abilities of the participants.

Education

The Foundation supports funding for schools, organizations and programs seeking to improve educational outcomes in ways that support success in school and life. The Foundation's strategy in this program area places priority on:

- **Early Childhood Education:** The Foundation is particularly interested in evidence-based programs that advance early childhood development. Importance is placed on efforts to improve access to and the quality of both early childhood education and child care for all families.

- **Improving the Quality of K-12 Education:** The Foundation supports work to raise overall student performance and close achievement gaps in public schools. Proposals will be considered for programs and activities that are evidence-based, pilots and/or take innovative approaches. A preference is given to system-wide approaches to improving schools.
- **K-12 Teacher Quality:** A highly competent teacher workforce is a necessary foundation for improving children's educational outcomes. The Foundation has a particular interest in recruiting and preparing competent and committed teachers for long-term careers in classrooms within the Cameron service area.
- **College and Career Readiness:** Students should graduate from high school ready for college and careers, prepared to pursue the future of their choosing. The Foundation is interested in activities proven to impact students' post-graduation preparation for college and workforce.

Historic Preservation & Conservation

The Foundation recognizes that the unique history and unsurpassed historic architecture in the region are significant assets which contribute to the quality of life. Historic preservation has an important community development and conservation role by strengthening existing neighborhoods and conserving resources by recycling older buildings. Environmental conservation also plays a critical role in protecting natural resources and ecosystems upon which communities depend. The Foundation has an interest in the following:

- **Significant Historic Buildings and Sites:** The Foundation supports the preservation, restoration and reconstruction of historic buildings and sites that are listed locally, on the Virginia Landmarks Register, or on the National Register of Historic Places either individually or as a contributing resource in an historic district***. Priority is given to projects that are integral to larger community development efforts and can demonstrate broader community and economic benefits.***
- **Sacred Landmarks:** Historic religious buildings are community assets that help define local history, offer architectural significance, and provide vital space for community-serving programs. The Foundation has an interest in providing grants for the exterior preservation of sacred landmarks. Priority will be given to exterior preservation projects demonstrating urgent repair needs and to historic religious buildings listed locally, on the Virginia Landmarks Register, or on the National Register of Historic Places, either individually or as a contributing resource in an historic district. **To apply for a Sacred Landmarks Grant, a separate application process is required.** Please review the Sacred Landmarks Grants guidelines and application procedures if you are applying for this grant (https://camfound.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Guidelines-SacredLandmarks_v010826.pdf).
- **Conservation:** Environmental conservation plays a critical role in protecting natural resources and ecosystems upon which communities depend. Open and green spaces are demonstrated to positively impact the social determinants of health. The Foundation has an interest in open space preservation, planned management of natural resources, and protection of environmental quality, especially programs or projects that connect people to their natural environment.

Arts & Culture

Arts and culture are vital to the health and well-being of individuals and communities and also serve as a catalyst for community revitalization. Equally important is the long-term growth and viability of arts and culture organizations as part of our community. Recognizing the importance of arts organizations, museums and other venues, the Foundation has a special interest in the following:

- **Arts Education:** The Foundation supports programs that incorporate arts and culture into education, with particular priority on programs that serve youth.
- **Reaching New Audiences:** The Foundation has an interest in supporting innovative approaches of arts and cultural organizations to expand and diversify their audiences in order to achieve long-term sustainability.
- **Community Revitalization:** The Foundation supports the catalytic role of arts and culture in community revitalization and economic development, especially creative efforts to make communities more attractive for residents, businesses and visitors.

Eligible Organizations

To be eligible for Cameron funding:

- At least 51% of those served by your organization or proposed work must reside within the Foundation's service region.
- Your organization must be governed by an all-volunteer board of directors that consists of at least five unrelated persons. No paid staff member can participate as a voting member of the governing board. When this is the case, the organization is generally ineligible for funding from The Cameron Foundation.
- Your organization's board includes at least one member who lives and/or works in the Foundation's service area, or your organization's governing body includes a local advisory council.

Divisions Within Organizations, Institutions or Government Entities
Grant requests from different divisions of an organization, institution and/or government entity will be treated as having been submitted by a single entity.

Local governmental entities are eligible for capital, program-specific and special project purposes, excluding overhead and other administrative or operational costs. In general, state and federal governmental entities are ineligible for funding from The Cameron Foundation.

Proposals for individual schools must be approved by and submitted through the central administration or local school district. Additionally, the central administration of a school district may apply for division-wide projects that affect multiple schools and other subunits.

Additional Information about Funding for Government Entities
The Foundation generally will not make grants to governmental entities for:

- Activities that were historically funded by that entity through local funds in previous years and for which funding was cut at the discretion of the locality;
- Activities that are customarily part of the functions of governmental entities in other jurisdictions of comparable size and scope;
- Activities that are currently performed by a viable non-governmental entity;
- Activities that are mandated as local obligations by state and/or federal authorities, except where state/federal authorities stipulate private matching funds for support of a particular effort; and,
- Activities eligible for funding through issuance of municipal bonds by state and/or local authorities.

Ineligible Organizations and Purposes
The Foundation will not make grants to or for:

- Organizations that discriminate on the basis of race, creed, gender, sexual orientation or disability;
- Private foundations;
- Supporting organizations;
- Endowments;
- For-profit organizations;

- Individuals;
- Expenses incurred prior to grant approval by the Foundation's Board of Directors;
- Medical research or national health agency appeals;
- Academic or scientific research projects;
- Religious organizations seeking support for programs to which access is restricted by religious affiliation or programs that promote a particular creed;
- Organizations or groups whose primary purpose is to carry on propaganda or otherwise attempt to influence legislation or political campaigns;
- Other grant agencies or foundations for ultimate re-granting to organizations or programs selected by such agencies or foundations;
- Purchase of tickets to fundraising events;
- Solely for publishing, producing or distributing audio, visual or printed material;
- Solely for attendance at conferences, seminars or meetings;
- Reserve funds or debt elimination; and,
- Organizations requesting funds through a fiscal sponsor.

Types of Support from The Cameron Foundation

Types of Grants

Project and Program Grants – support the mission of the recipient organization and are intended to support a specific, connected set of activities that have explicit objectives. Whereas *project* grants have predetermined time frames and costs, *program* grants support ongoing activities of the organization. Applicants may include relevant administrative and overhead costs as long as those amounts are proportional with the prospective activities.

General Operating Grants – intended to fund the ongoing operations of an organization, including the regular personnel, administrative, fundraising and office expenses of existing agency programs. This type of funding also is known as "core support." The Cameron Foundation will only provide general operating support for nonprofit organizations holding 501(c)(3) public charity status that are indigenous to and headquartered in the Foundation's service area. The Foundation will not make grants to fund the operations of organizations based outside of The Cameron Foundation's service region, or those whose primary services support clientele outside of that region. Government agencies are not eligible for general operating support.

For General Operating Grants, The Cameron Foundation limits the proportion of an organization's annual budget that it will provide to the following amounts:

- For an annual budget of less than $100,000, the Foundation will not make operating support grants exceeding 50% of that budget.
- For a budget between $100,000 and $500,000, operating support grants will not exceed 35% of that budget.
- For a budget greater than $500,000 but less than $1 million, operating support grants will not exceed 20% of that budget.
- For an organization whose annual budget is greater than $1 million, the Foundation generally will not make general operating support grants.

Exceptions to this provision will only be extended at the Foundation's discretion and invitation.

Requests for general operating support predicated on the loss of a major source of funding will be subject to the following additional restrictions. The organization should demonstrate that:

1. There is a significant and ongoing demand for the programs and services provided by the organization;
2. The organization lacks the capacity to respond to the loss of funding and such loss would result in a cessation or reduction of the programs and/or services offered by the organization; and,
3. A strategy to preserve the programs and/or services in the future has been clearly identified.

Capital Grants – intended to facilitate the purchase of land, construction of and repairs to physical facilities, and the acquisition of equipment by an organization. Capital grant requests for

construction projects also may include the costs of related technical services, such as legal, architectural and engineering activities.

Additionally, the Foundation will consider applications by 501(c)(3) organizations for capital projects for buildings and other property owned by governmental entities, subject to the following specific conditions:

- With the application, the 501(c)(3) organization must furnish a copy of the signed lease, contract, memorandum of understanding or other formal agreement between the organization and the governmental entity that provides for the use of the building or other property by the 501(c)(3) organization.
- The 501(c)(3) organization must be in existence for at least two years prior to the date of the application.

Grant Programs

The Cameron Foundation provides funding through its General and Strategic Partnership grant programs. Each one has an application process, as well as steps that must be taken after the grant is awarded. It is important to review these guidelines to understand these differences.

Grantees involved in the Foundation's Strategic Partnerships proactive work remain eligible to apply for responsive grants through the General Grants program.

General Grants
The Foundation administers two General Grant cycles each year, resulting in awards in June and October. Only one General Grant will be approved per organization per year, and only one proposal can be submitted per organization per grant cycle.

Strategic Partnership Grants
Through the Strategic Partnership Grants program, Cameron is able to engage in proactive work that it believes will help to maximize the impact of its investments and address critical community needs.

Strategic Partnership Grants may result from:

- **Direct Collaboration** – Cameron may engage one or more organizations to jointly develop an innovative project or address a specific community need. These efforts should be guided by community health assessment data, social drivers of health (e.g., health, education, economic development), and Cameron's strategic priorities.
- **Targeted Requests for Proposals (RFPs)** – Cameron may develop and distribute RFPs to a select group of organizations to solicit proposals that address a defined community need.
- **Expert Convenings** – Cameron may bring together local organizations with expertise in specific fields to brainstorm and develop innovative solutions to community challenges.
- **Collaborative Funding Initiatives** – Cameron may support projects that strengthen impact by partnering with other funders to explore and jointly support initiatives of mutual interest.

- **Anchor Organization Partnerships** – Cameron may fund prioritized partnerships with established institutions that have a long-term presence in the community and have the capacity to sustain innovation and impact. Anchor organizations—such as universities, hospitals, government agencies, cultural institutions, large nonprofits, and schools—play a crucial role in economic, social and cultural development. These organizations leverage their resources, influence and networks to drive meaningful community change and address systemic challenges.

When deciding whether to approve a Strategic Partnership Grant, several key considerations are made:

- **Alignment with Cameron's Strategic Priorities**, as reflected in the Foundation's 2025-2027 Strategic Plan.
- **Data-Driven Decision Making** – Community assessment data, social drivers of health, and Cameron's strategic priorities should inform the evaluation process for all proactive grants.
- **Organizational Capacity** – A thorough assessment should be conducted to ensure the applicant organization has the capacity to sustain the initiative over multiple years.
- **Evaluation & Metrics** – A clear evaluation plan with defined metrics is essential. The Foundation is open to providing additional financial support for evaluation efforts.
- **Long-Term Investment** – These grants require sustained investment of time and capital, with sustainability integrated into the planning process.
- **Scalability & Replication** – The potential to expand or replicate the initiative in other localities within the Foundation's service area should be considered.
- **Funding Structure** – Strategic Partnership Grants are eligible for sustained funding for 3–5 years. After this period, the organization may be required to sit out for one year before entering the responsive grantmaking cycle.

Factors to include in the design of a Strategic Partnership Grant include:

- Budget and fiscal sustainability
- Focus areas – The initiative must address community health data needs, social drivers of health core areas – including health, education and workforce – and/or Cameron's other stated strategic priorities.
- Consistent reporting – All proactive grants awarded will provide outcomes and other required updates to The Cameron Foundation's Board annually on the anniversary of the grant award.

Application Procedures

Applying for a General Grant

Please review the Foundation's general grant guidelines and priorities to determine if your organization's mission and proposal are both consistent with the Foundation's purpose as well as meet the Foundation's funding criteria.

There are two steps in the General Grant application process. The first is submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI). After the LOI has been reviewed by the Foundation, the second step is submission of a full proposal if your organization is invited to do so by the Foundation.

The Foundation utilizes an online application process and does not accept hard copy applications. Registration for the online system is based on your email address, a password you select, and your organization's tax ID. On the Foundation's website (https://camfound.org/), click on the "Applicant Login" portal to begin that process.

Please note: Although Sacred Landmarks Grants are awarded through the Foundation's General Grants program, there is a separate application process. Please review the Sacred Landmarks Grants guidelines and application procedures if you are applying for this grant (https://camfound.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Guidelines-SacredLandmarks_v010826.pdf).

Step 1: Letter of Intent

The first step in the General Grants application process is the submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI). The LOI application includes an eligibility quiz, organizational information, a preliminary project budget, and a list of your organization's board and staff leadership.

Please note: Although Sacred Landmarks Grants are awarded through the Foundation's General Grants program, a separate LOI and eligibility quiz are required. Please review the Sacred Landmarks Grants guidelines and application procedures if you are applying for this grant (https://camfound.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Guidelines-SacredLandmarks_v010826.pdf).

The LOI will require the following information:

Eligibility Quiz – See Eligible Organizations

Organization Information

- Organization contacts information
- Mission statement
- Brief history of the organization
- List of programs and services provided by the organization
- Organization budget
- Geographical area served by the organization
- Organization primary contact

Letter of Intent

- Request primary contact

- Project title*
- Project description
- The problem or community need to be addressed by the proposed project, including most recent data specific to the proposed service area, where available*
- Type of grant*
- Project budget amount*
- Amount requested from The Cameron Foundation*
- Foundation's funding area for the project*
- Foundation's outcome indicators for the project
- Geographical area served by the project
- How the project will address the community need or problem, and how this relates to the mission of the Foundation
- The plans for sustaining the project after support from the Foundation ends
- Any existing partnerships in place for the proposed work
- The anticipated start date and end date for the project

** If you are invited to submit a full proposal for one year of funding, edits to these items are not allowed.*

Attachments

- **List of board and staff leadership** – Include all officers and directors of the organization with their business addresses and phone numbers and indicate which Board members live or work in The Cameron Foundation's service area. (For assistance with determining addresses in Cameron's footprint, please visit The Cameron Foundation's Service Area Address Checker on its website.) Also include key staff leadership with titles.
- **Preliminary project budget** – Include requested amount from The Cameron Foundation and other financial resources, pending or committed, to the proposed project.

The LOI, including all required information and attachments, must be submitted online by 5:00 p.m. on the published deadline for a given grant cycle. The Cameron Foundation does not accept hard copy applications. The Foundation will provide a response to the LOI no later than four weeks prior to the deadline for submitting Proposals. On the Foundation's website (https://camfound.org/), click on the "Applicant Login" portal to begin that process.

Step 2: Submitting Your Proposal
If your organization and proposal appear to meet the Foundation's eligibility criteria and current priorities, you will be invited to submit a full Proposal.

Please note: Although Sacred Landmarks Grants are awarded through the Foundation's General Grants program, applications are required to follow separate application instructions, including completion of an application form. Please review the Sacred Landmarks Grants guidelines and application procedures if you are applying for this grant (https://camfound.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Guidelines-SacredLandmarks_v010826.pdf).

The responses that you entered in the Organization Information and the Letter of Intent sections of the LOI will automatically be transferred into the Proposal form. Except as noted above, you will have the opportunity to edit those responses when completing the Proposal.

The Proposal will require the following additional information:

Proposal Information

- Specific goals of the project
- How the project will produce a positive impact that will continue beyond the period of support by the Foundation to include benchmarks and measurable outcomes
- How the organization will evaluate the project if the requested grant is approved
- The staff or consultant(s) required to implement the project, and their qualifications
- Population served by the project:
  - Age group
  - Gender
  - Ethnicity
  - Other classifications

Attachments

- **Project budget** – The project budget should be aligned as closely as possible to the project budget that was submitted with the Letter of Intent. Include a budget justification, the requested amount from The Cameron Foundation, and the other financial resources, pending or committed to the proposed project. If the project is to last for more than one year, include a complete budget for each year and a total for all years. List and identify all direct and indirect costs and indicate which of the costs would be paid from a grant from the Foundation.
- **Financial statements** – Include the audited, reviewed or compiled financial statements prepared for the organization by an independent certified public accountant for the two most recently completed fiscal years. If an organization does not have independently prepared financial statements, it may submit its Form 990 (including all schedules and pages) for the two most recently completed fiscal years, as filed with the Internal Revenue Service. If these listed documents are not yet prepared for the organization's most recently completed fiscal year, it may submit internal financial statements (including balance sheet and income & expense statements) for that fiscal year.
- **Board-approved current fiscal year operating budget** of the organization, including revenue and expenses
- **Interim financial statements** for the current fiscal year, including balance sheet and income & expense statements

Additional information may be requested during the grant review process. In cases where the applicant has an open grant with the Foundation, an interim progress report will be requested.

Please note: Applicants are not to contact members of the Board of Directors or the Grants Committee regarding proposals.

General Grants Filing Deadlines – 2027

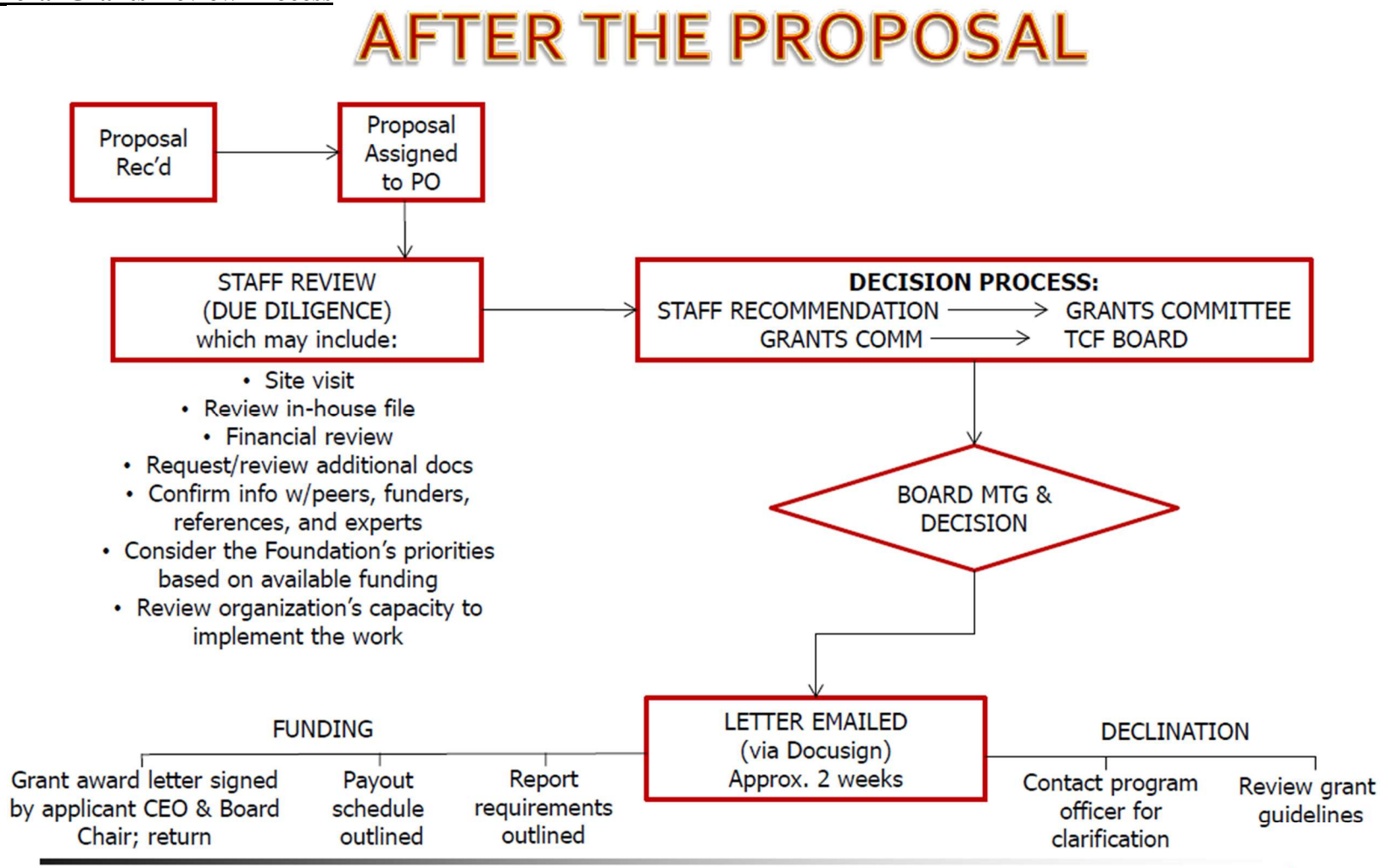


Notification: General Grants applicants are notified by their program officers following the Board's decision. Notification also is posted to the applicants' accounts 30 days after the Board's decision. If approved, a payout schedule and reporting deadlines are established, and the grantee is required to sign and return its award letter to execute the grant. If declined, the applicant is welcome to contact The Cameron Foundation's program staff with questions.

Step 3: Post-Grant Evaluation and Documentation
All grantees are required to submit both a final evaluation and a financial report form within one month after the conclusion of the grant. On the Foundation's website (https://camfound.org/), click on the "Applicant Login" portal to begin that process. A Post Grant Financial Report is required as part of the Final Report. This form also is available on the Foundation's web site at https://camfound.org/apply/application-reporting-procedures and can be downloaded for use in preparing the report. Additional documentation and/or relevant materials also may be uploaded to the online reporting system.

Please contact Grants Manager Michelle Hornby with questions pertaining to the online application and reporting system.

General Grants Review Process



Note: Applicants are not to contact members of the Grants Committee or the Board of Directors about the grant proposal during the application process; however, program officers are available to discuss the proposal with applicants throughout the review process.

THE CAMERON FOUNDATION 20+ YEARS

Applying for a Strategic Partnership Grant
These proactive grants are made to organizations by invitation only. Please contact a member of The Cameron Foundation's program staff to discuss your project in greater detail and to learn more about how a Strategic Partnership Grant may align with your need.

Helpful Information When Applying for a Grant

Elements of a Good Proposal

- All required information is included.
- The organization has demonstrated its capacity and/or experience to implement the proposed project.
- The project is consistent with the mission of the applicant.
- The organization has at least one board member who lives and/or works in the Foundation's service area or the organization's governing body includes a local advisory council.
- The problem or need to be addressed is clearly defined and documented; the constituency to be served is identified; and the manner in which the proposed project will address the need is clearly defined.
- The proposed project is consistent with the mission of the Foundation.
- The anticipated short-term and long-term results of the project are clear and realistic.
- A realistic timetable for implementation is provided.
- A complete, detailed budget for the project is provided, and any other sources of funding for the project have been identified.
- If the project is to extend beyond the grant period, a plan for sustaining the project has been developed.

This general guidance also is taken into consideration by the Board of Directors of the Foundation. It may be modified by the Board of Directors in any manner and at any time at the sole and absolute discretion of the Board of Directors.

FAQ – Top 10 Frequently Asked Questions

If an organization has been approved to submit a proposal but it does not have its 501(c)(3) in place, should the group submit its proposal?
No, the Foundation does not consider unsolicited requests from organizations without a 501(c)(3) status.

Does our nonprofit have to be physically located in the Foundation's service area?
No, however at least 51% of the individuals served by the project you wish to have funded by The Cameron Foundation have to reside within the Foundation's service area.

How large of a grant should I request?
For the General Grants program, the answer depends greatly on the size of your organization, the operational budget of your organization, the scope of your project, and the Foundation's available resources. Please refer to our website for lists of General Grants awarded in previous cycles to get an idea of the range and types of support we have provided.

If our grant request is approved or declined, how long do we have to wait before making another request?
Only one grant will be approved per organization per year, and only one proposal can be submitted per organization per grant cycle.

I know members of your board. Can we contact them about our grant proposal?
No. It is the policy of The Cameron Foundation that organizations with grants under review not contact Board members and/or Grants Committee members about grant applications.

I own a small business in the Tri-Cities region. Currently, we are not seeing any profits. Can I apply to The Foundation for a grant?
No. The Cameron Foundation only makes grants to qualified nonprofits with 501(c)(3) public charity status and to governmental entities.

Does The Cameron Foundation offer grant writing and nonprofit management classes?
While the Foundation does not directly provide grant writing and management classes, groups are encouraged to utilize training and other resources that are available through Cameron's capacity-building program. For example, the Foundation works with the Center for Nonprofit Excellence to provide nonprofit advising, board education sessions, facilitated leaders' circles, member benefits, and other tailored supports to nonprofits serving Cameron's catchment area. Cameron also partners with Duke University to offer the Custom Intensive Track Program, where cohort members are able to complete the requirements for the Duke Certificate in Nonprofit Management. More information about capacity-building resources is available on the Foundation's web site (https://camfound.org/capacity-building/capacity-building-overview).

Where did The Cameron Foundation name come from? Is it affiliated with the Cameron family?
The Cameron Foundation was named after William E. Cameron, a descendant of Rev. John Cameron (Rector of Bristol Parish) who was editor of two Petersburg newspapers, The Daily News and The Daily Index. William E. Cameron was not related to William Cameron, who owned Mount Erin at the site where Southside Regional Medical Center previously stood. While he had no ties to the hospital or to Cameron field, Mr. Cameron was the Mayor of Petersburg (1876-81), the Governor of Virginia (1882-86), and was instrumental in supporting education for African Americans, having played a large role in the founding of Virginia State University. The Cameron Foundation was named in tribute to him.

If we didn't use all the money for the approved purpose, can we use the remainder for something else?
In the event that funds are left over, The Cameron Foundation staff should be contacted regarding a variance request. The Cameron funds may not be repurposed prior to securing the written approval through this process if it is determined that a variance is needed.

What is the Foundation's policy about publicizing the grant?
If the Cameron Foundation is mentioned in any media or news release regarding funds it has committed to a particular project, the Foundation should be sent a copy of the information for approval by the Foundation's President before it is released to the public.