

OBCF Grants Program Award Policy

Adopted by the Board of Directors on December 5, 2024

The Outer Banks Community Foundation awards grants to qualifying nonprofit organizations to help meet local needs and enrich the quality of life for the people of the Outer Banks.

Funding:

The OBCF Grants Program budget is determined by the current year's spendable of all Unrestricted Grant-Making Funds, Field-of-Interest Funds, and Inactive Donor-Advised Funds. Staff will determine the fund allocation of each award based on the existing fund agreements and their knowledge of donor preferences.

Eligibility:

Any 501(c)3 organization is eligible to apply for a grant, as are other tax-exempt organizations for charitable projects that meet a public need, in accordance with IRS guidelines.

Occasionally, schools and government agencies will be considered for grant awards, if it is demonstrated that financial support is not available from other sources. The Community Foundation will consider awarding grants to faith-based and religious entities for projects that address the needs of the wider community and do not seek to primarily promote a religious belief.

Grants are never awarded to individuals.

Criteria:

Grants are usually awarded for requests that support the direct costs of a charitable project or program. The following will be used to assess all grant requests, regardless of any other application specific criteria.

Priority will be given to requests that:

- Involve or benefit a broad segment of our community.
- Provide an innovative approach to addressing area needs.
- Either initiate new projects or programs to influence beneficial change, or fill gaps, or address urgent community needs.
- Attract additional funding from other sources (i.e. matching funds through grants, donors, fundraisers, etc.)
- Expands the organization's capacity to their work in a sustainable way.
- Promote collaboration and efficiencies amongst multiple organizations.
- Addresses and/or alleviates inclusion, diversity, equity, or accessibility issues in the community.

Grants are generally not awarded:

- For regular operating expenses, employee benefits, or overhead, including salaries for

- management and/or fundraising for the general organization.
- For programs or projects that are typically supported by other sources, unless it is demonstrated that funding is not available.
 - For direct or grassroots lobbying.
 - To organizations that have a current, outstanding grant, unless special circumstances apply.
 - To organizations with excessive operating reserves (typically up to one year's worth), unless special circumstances apply.
 - To organizations that have received multiple awards (typically 2 or more) in concurrent years.

Any change in the timing of awarding cycles or criteria is recommended to the Board by the Grants Committee prior to seeking applications.

Recommendation Process:

Recommendations are informed by an application process, to be developed, reviewed, and approved by the Grants Committee prior to seeking requests. The Committee evaluates applications against the established criteria and priorities through a scoring process.

The Grants Committee may make quarterly award recommendations, to be finalized by a majority vote of the full Board. In the case of Rapid Response grants, the Committee may make recommendations more frequently, to be finalized by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

Applicants are invited to address problems/concerns from the Grants Committee before recommendations are made. Applicants are given feedback regarding Committee decisions upon request.

Finalizing Awards:

All grantees must complete a Final Report to finalize their award. What constitutes a Final Report is to be developed, reviewed, and approved by the Grants Committee. The committee will measure the impact and the success of the Grants Program through the use of these Final Reports.