



Giving Back. Moving Forward.

Urgent Needs Cycle Purpose and Process

Revised 1/5/2021

The mission of the Charlevoix County Community Foundation (C3F) is to enhance the quality of life for all citizens of Charlevoix County, now and for generations to come. The Community Foundation helps people make a difference close to home by accepting contributions of all sizes. Each year, the Community Foundation makes grants that support a wide variety of organizations, schools, and municipalities in their work.

What is the purpose of the Urgent Needs Cycle?

The purpose of the Urgent Needs Cycle is to offer all eligible nonprofit partners the opportunity to apply for support through the Community Foundation to help friends and neighbors in need. Individuals, couples, families, and businesses who advise funds at the Community Foundation (donor advisors) may choose to make grants through the cycle as well.

Eligible applicants include:

- 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organizations;
- All units of government;
- All educational institutions (preschool through college);
- Organizations described above that serve Charlevoix County residents;
- Organizations that do not discriminate in hiring of staff or the provision of services.

Fundable organizations must be current with final reports for all previous grant awards and be in good standing with the IRS.

When is the application deadline?

The Urgent Needs Fund has a rolling deadline, so applications are accepted throughout the year. The simple application is available at www.c3f.org.

What kinds of projects or programs are most likely to receive grant funding?

The Urgent Needs Cycle aims to attract requests that are focused on helping to meet individual needs of people in Charlevoix County. Specifically, requests from organizations helping Charlevoix County residents access food, shelter, safety, healthcare, mental health services, utility assistance, transportation and other basic and urgent needs will be prioritized.

What kinds of grants are generally not funded?

The Community Foundation's Urgent Needs Cycle generally does not fund general support, annual fundraising campaigns, political campaigns, deficit spending, sectarian projects, or services normally supported by tax dollars.

All grant applications require a cash contribution. How much is necessary?

It depends on the topic and scope of the project, but the expectation is that nonprofit partners will contribute to the budget of the project or program.

What size grants are available in the Urgent Needs Cycle?

This cycle encourages grants of all sizes. This format does not limit the request to what the Community Foundation might be able to fund, but instead shows the organization's need. Endowed funds provide specific amounts for grant-making, but donor advised funds may also contribute. Community Foundation staff can provide additional guidance and information.

How does the Community Foundation make Urgent Needs Cycle grant decisions?

Community Foundation staff will review grant applications and recommend funding to the Board of Trustees. The Community Foundation will also share these opportunities with donor advisors, who may choose to make grant recommendations from their funds.

When will grant funding decisions be announced?

C3F staff will generally notify grant applicants within a two-week period from the time the application is submitted.

What kind of follow up reporting is required?

The grant period is six months. A simple follow up report is available through the online grant portal to share about the successes of the program or project as well as the lessons learned. Providing photos is encouraged. Funded organizations will receive a reminder from administrator@grantinterface.com two weeks before the follow up report is due, then again one day prior to the due date, and once more if the report has not been submitted by the deadline. If the program or project is delayed or cannot be completed within the time period, the organization's representative should call the Community Foundation.

Are there any other requirements?

- The governing board of the organization is responsible for appropriate use of funds and project implementation.
- Grantees must be current with follow up reports for all previous grants in order to apply.
- Proposals from faith-based organizations must address community needs and
 - Have a clearly demonstrated public benefit;
 - Be fully accessible to all persons regardless of religious beliefs and lifestyle choices;
 - May NOT require anything in return for services provided. Examples: attending services or prayer groups and/or volunteering, etc.

How to Apply for an Urgent Needs Grant

Step 1: Visit www.c3f.org to log on to the online grant application (“Accepting Applications” link for the Urgent Needs Cycle).

- If you have an account already, you may log on and proceed to the application. There is no access code for this cycle.
- If you do not already have an account, you will need to create one. Each user needs their own username (email address and password) before proceeding to the application using the access code. The user who starts the application has editing rights for the application going forward. This person can invite others to contribute to the application once started.
 - If you do not already have an account, we suggest contacting Ashley Cousens at acousens@c3f.org before getting started on your application.

Step 2: Complete the online grant application. You may save your work and return at any point prior to submitting your application. If you have questions or would like guidance from C3F staff, please contact Ashley Cousens at acousens@c3f.org. Once you submit your application, you will receive immediate confirmation via email.

If Funded...

The Community Foundation will share news of the grant decisions within two weeks of you submitting the application. This will allow time for a decision to be made and for the C3F Board to approve the funding. The grantee organization will receive notification detailing the funding decision.

Grant check requests will be submitted by grants staff and mailed out on the next check run date. Checks are cut every two weeks. Funds must be utilized in the manner described in the application within six (6) months of the date of the grant award. Any unused grant dollars will be returned to the Fund.

A simple follow up report is required following your project completion. Follow ups should be completed sooner, if the project is completed sooner.