



# Community Grant Guidelines

## **PROGRAM AREAS**

Guided by local priorities and engaged residents, Innovia Foundation will invest in programs and initiatives that promote vibrant and sustainable communities where every person has the opportunity to thrive.

### **Impact Areas**

- ❖ Education and Youth Development
  - Innovia Foundation invests in nonprofit organizations providing access to learning opportunities for all ages – from early childhood reading programs to college campus site visits for first generation college students.
- ❖ Arts and Culture
  - From rural community theaters to large symphonies, Innovia Foundation partners with nonprofit organizations that support the arts as economic drivers, educational assets, civic catalysts and bridges between cultures.
- ❖ Economic Opportunity
  - Whether it's providing job skills training for refugees or developing a commercial kitchen for local entrepreneurs, Innovia Foundation works with nonprofit partners to build prosperity for local families, businesses and communities.
- ❖ Health and Wellbeing
  - From programs addressing child hunger to those ensuring no senior falls victim to abuse or neglect, Innovia Foundation partners with nonprofit organizations to improve the social determinants of health in our community and meet the basic needs of our most vulnerable populations.
- ❖ Quality of Life
  - Innovia Foundation recognizes that land conservation, compassion for our furry friends and well-planned community spaces add so much to the quality of life we enjoy in the Inland Northwest and invests in organizations providing access to these community assets.

### **Guiding Principles**

Within our impact areas, we aim to fund proposals that are a strong fit with one or more of the following **Guiding Principles**:

- ❖ Respond compassionately to meet basic human needs
  - We know that meeting basic human needs is fundamental to improving the quality of life for everyone. Innovia Foundation will collaborate with community partners to address both systemic issues and immediate needs.
- ❖ Bring people together to build inclusive communities
  - We believe in bringing people together and building connections that enrich us all. We seek to develop places and spaces where everyone feels they belong and can participate in decisions that affect their lives.
- ❖ Expand opportunity and reduce inequity
  - We recognize that persistent and systemic disparities diminish opportunities. We will bridge the divide that isolates and prevents members of our community from recognizing and reaching their full potential and will invest in organizations that address the root causes of issues and promote self-sufficiency.

## **PROGRAM DETAILS**

One Community Grant cycle will occur annually, with an application deadline of January 31 for a board decision in mid-May. Grant awards are for a one-year period from June 1 to May 31. The maximum award amount is \$30,000, with most grants in the range of \$10,000 – \$20,000.

Please visit Innovia Foundation's website at <https://innovia.org/nonprofits/apply-for-a-grant/> for application log-in directions and additional guidance.

**Early Bird Incentive!** Organizations that submit their application by midnight on January 15 will be automatically entered into a drawing to receive a \$1,000 grant for general operating support.

### **Nondiscrimination Policy**

Innovia Foundation does not unlawfully discriminate with regard to employees, volunteers, delivery of programs or services, or clients served based on age, sex, religion/creed, race, color, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, marital status, military or veteran status, pregnancy or genetic information. Applicants for Community Grant must adhere to similar standards.

### **Project Types**

Organizations may request a Community Grant for any of the following project types:

- ❖ Build a new program
- ❖ Expand an existing program
- ❖ Support for an existing program
- ❖ Capital projects/equipment
  - This could include, but is not limited to, technology, furnishings, equipment, vehicles or building construction or renovation
- ❖ Capacity building
  - This could include, but is not limited to:
    - Collaborating with other organizations to improve services or eliminate duplication
    - Strengthening governance, leadership or staff expertise
    - Restructuring business models and accounting practices to improve organizational stability
    - Building and diversifying revenue streams
    - Developing and implementing long-term strategic plans
    - Refining communications, marketing and outreach
    - Improving volunteer recruitment, training and engagement
    - Acquiring or improving impact measurement tools and program evaluation capacity

**Note regarding proposals to create, expand or support a program:** Innovia Foundation funds a broad range of programs. If you have questions regarding a specific program for which you would like to seek grant funding, please contact Grants Program Associate Alicia Heiser at 509-624-2606 or [aheiser@innovia.org](mailto:aheiser@innovia.org).

### **Activities Typically Not Eligible for Community Grant Funding**

- ❖ Academic or scientific research
- ❖ Debt retirement, operating deficits or after-the-fact support
- ❖ Direct or grassroots lobbying
- ❖ Annual fund appeals and contributions to endowments
- ❖ Re-granting programs
- ❖ Litigious activities
- ❖ In considering applications for funding from faith-based organizations we will apply the following criteria:
  - The program or service to be funded must be open to all members of the community (not just members of the faith community applying for funding)

- In the course of providing programs or services, faith-based organizations cannot require clients to participate in or adopt any specific religious practice or belief

### **DEVELOPING A STRONG COMMUNITY GRANT PROPOSAL**

All proposals are reviewed by regionally advised committees:

Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4
Ferry Stevens Pend Oreille Lincoln Adams	Spokane	Whitman Latah Asotin Nez Perce Clearwater Lewis Idaho Columbia Garfield	Boundary Bonner Kootenai Benewah Shoshone

Here's what our committees look for when reviewing proposals:

#### **Organizational Qualities**

1. Programs address a demonstrated community need
2. Community support is evident through local contributions, partnerships and volunteer engagement
3. Organization, or organizational leadership, has a track record of effective work

#### **Project Qualities**

1. Project is a close fit with Innovia Foundation's **Guiding Principles**
2. Project addresses a demonstrated community need
3. Project has the potential for broad community benefit
4. Project aligns with organization's overarching mission, expertise and long-term goals
5. Good planning is evident in the project timetable, goals, staffing and sustainability
6. Requested amount is proportional to overall project budget
7. Any proposed collaboration with other organizations has been confirmed

#### **Project Budgets**

Grant proposals with clear community support (in-kind, additional funding, volunteer engagement etc.) are more competitive. Applicants may include the value of in-kind support in their project budgets. Project expenditures should clearly correlate with project activities, as demonstrating an alignment of the two suggests a well-planned proposal with clear and consistent goals. When submitting your grant application, it is required to use [Innovia Foundation's Project Budget Worksheet](#).

#### **Still have questions?**

Please contact Grants Program Associate Alicia Heiser at 509-624-2606 or [aheiser@innovia.org](mailto:aheiser@innovia.org).