



## GRANTMAKING GUIDELINES

Aspen Community Foundation has been working since 1980 to improve the quality of life in our communities, directing a collection of funds that are created by individuals, families, nonprofits, businesses, and Aspen Community Foundation itself for charitable purposes. Each year Aspen Community Foundation awards millions of dollars in grants to nonprofits from these funds.

The Community Foundation received over \$5.7 million in contributions in 2008. As a result, grantmaking from the Foundation's 159 funds reached over \$3.6 million: 83% from donor advised funds, 10% from the Community Foundation's Grantmaking Fund of unrestricted donations, and 7% from designated and scholarship funds. Assets topped \$32 million by the end of 2008, including our \$12 million endowment and several other nonprofits' endowments, giving Aspen Community Foundation sound financial footing for the future.

Based in Aspen, with an office in Glenwood Springs, Aspen Community Foundation roots itself in communities throughout the greater Roaring Fork Valley – Aspen, Basalt, Carbondale, Glenwood Springs, New Castle, Silt, Rifle, Battlement Mesa, and Parachute.

### CRITERIA

Aspen Community Foundation grants are administered throughout the year on a rolling basis to organizations holding current nonprofit tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Each organization seeking funding is required to submit a letter of inquiry, which is reviewed by staff (typically an eight-week process), to determine if it is a strong fit with grantmaking criteria and priorities. If so, the organization is asked to submit a proposal. Based on the proposal, funding may be provided by the Community Foundation's Grantmaking, field of interest, and donor advised funds. Funding from Grantmaking and field of interest funds must directly benefit residents of Pitkin, Garfield, and west Eagle Counties of Colorado. Aspen Community Foundation does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, sexual preference, physical circumstances or national origin. Grant applicants must hold similar standards. Applications from organizations known to have discriminatory policies will not be considered.

### PRIORITIES

#### **High-Need People and Places**

To ensure the inclusion and access of underrepresented geographic areas and individuals, the Community Foundation encourages applications by organizations which represent and serve people and or communities often excluded from mainstream funding sources, and that promote lasting economic opportunity and mobilizing of community resources for people who lack basic services.



### **Holistic Approaches**

The Community Foundation strongly promotes efforts that seek to address critical needs through multidisciplinary and integrated approaches, that bring together diverse groups, develop collaborations among different segments of our communities, generate civic and community vitality, or promote civic engagement.

### **Maximum Leverage**

To increase both the positive outcomes of its grantmaking and the level of resources available to address critical community concerns, the Community Foundation looks to fund partnership opportunities that reflect results-oriented collaborations among the public, private and independent sector.

### **Measurable Results**

To facilitate the development of long-term solutions to the core causes of social, economic and educational inequity, the Community Foundation recognizes that grantmaking should achieve progress and that such progress should be measurable with specific results.

### **Institution Building**

To create a stronger nonprofit infrastructure in the region, the Community Foundation seeks to support organizations that strive to contribute to the long-term solutions of critical local issues.

### **INTENT**

Aspen Community Foundation casts a wide net into the region, establishing relationships with community members, civic leaders, nonprofits, businesses, and schools. In a variety of conversations, we've listened as many residents shared the opportunities and challenges impacting the quality of life in the region, including:

- access to basic healthcare including dental and optical services and mental healthcare, particularly for bilingual residents;
- affordable housing for working families, including vital professionals such as healthcare practitioners, teachers, law enforcement officers, and firefighters;
- workforce shortages and environmental concerns due to the oil and gas industry boom of Western Garfield County;
- cultural and language barriers in schools hindering student achievement;
- preschools lacking the enrollment capacity to care for the many children needing services;
- schools having insufficient resources to meet student needs;
- lack of after-school programs to keep children safe and supported while their parents work;
- individuals with basic needs, such as food, housing, and personal safety going unmet;
- residents struggling with substance abuse dependency, including a growing concern over methamphetamine use;
- workers grappling with long distance commutes, lessening the time they spend with their families and preventing their community involvement.



## **APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

### **Letter of Inquiry**

An organization interested in applying for a grant should first determine, after a careful review of these guidelines, whether its proposal meets the criteria and priorities of Aspen Community Foundation. If so, a letter of inquiry containing all contact information, including email address, should be sent to: Aspen Community Foundation, 110 East Hallam Street, Suite #126, Aspen, CO 81611. The letter should include a description of the project or program for which funding is desired, the amount of funding requested, and the community issues that will be addressed. Information about the organization's capacity to carry out the project should also be included.

### **Questions**

Please contact Program Assistant, Alison Friedman, [alison@aspencommunityfoundation.org](mailto:alison@aspencommunityfoundation.org), 970.925.9300 for questions.