

# Community Grants Program Guidelines



LOCAL GIVING. BETTER LIVING.

## Community Foundation of Howard County 2024 Community Grants

*Application Due Date:* Wednesday, October 30, 2024 by 11:59 p.m.

The Community Foundation of Howard County **Community Grants Program** seeks to provide flexible operational grant support to nonprofit organizations that are providing programs and services that transform our community, improve quality of life and create a brighter future for all those living and working in Howard County.

Past funding awards have generally supported organizations providing programming and services in Howard County and to people living and working in Howard County. Organizational missions have focused on the areas of human services, arts, cultural and environmental activities, educational priorities and youth opportunities.

The Community Foundation of Howard County wants to fund initiatives that will create positive change and uphold a mission of improving the quality of life, especially those that are most vulnerable in our community. By distributing flexible grants that allow nonprofits to achieve their mission and vision, together we can build a stronger more vibrant community for all. Local giving means better living for all.

Submitted [grant applications](#) should communicate the significance and sustainability of programs and services, concrete evidence of the impact the organization has on the community, as well as demonstrated organizational capacity to successfully implement efficient and effective programs and services.

The [Community Grants Program](#) provides funding for organizational operational needs. These grants are unrestricted sources of income to help an organization carry out its goals without imposing the requirement to develop activities directly attributable to the grant.

This year we will be offering opportunities for non-profit organizations with operational budgets above \$100,000 and for non-profits organizations with operational budgets below \$100,000.

Based on the availability of funds, in 2024 the Foundation will award grants in two categories:

- OPERATIONAL GRANTS of up to \$10,000 for non-profit organizations providing services in Howard County with an organizational budget ABOVE \$100,000
  - OPERATIONAL GRANTS of up to \$5,000 for non-profit organizations providing services in Howard County with an organizational budget BELOW \$100,000
- Eligibility Criteria

The Foundation considers grant applications from organizations:

- Applicants must: a) be an organization that is tax- exempt under IRS Section 501(c) 3; or (b) have a fiscal sponsor that meets option a
- Delivering services to Howard County residents in the areas of human services, arts & culture, education, environment or community affairs
- Providing programs and services to the intended beneficiaries without discrimination on the basis of race, color, gender, national origin, religion, disability, medical condition, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran or military status, pregnancy, ancestry, age or any other characteristic protected by federal, state, county or local laws, regulations or ordinances

### **How to Submit Grant Applications**

All proposals must be submitted using [our online grants system](#). The deadline to submit the application is October 30, 2024 at 11:59 p.m.

### **Interested in learning more? Questions?**

We will be hosting a virtual information session on **October 15, 2024** at 9:30 a.m. To get the most out of the session we encourage you to review the application in advance, so we can spend the majority of the time answering your specific questions. This meeting will be recorded and can be accessed after the meeting.

APPLICATION INFO SESSION: Tuesday, October 15 at 9:30 a.m.

Please RSVP via email to participate in Zoom meeting at **[Grants@CFHoCo.org](mailto:Grants@CFHoCo.org)**

We invite applicants to access a meeting time with Foundation staff if needed for further discussion. For your convenience, please check on available times and schedule a meeting through our [online calendar available here](#).

Please contact us by phone, 410-730-7840, ext. 4 or via email, **[Grants@CFHoCo.org](mailto:Grants@CFHoCo.org)**.

### **About CFHoCo**

*The Community Foundation of Howard County serves as a knowledgeable, trusted partner that forges connections between donors and nonprofit organizations to provide impactful investments in Howard County. In 2023 the foundation awarded \$1.7 million across 423 grants and scholarships to organizations delivering human services, arts and cultural, educational and civic programs. Funds to support grant programs come primarily from income generated by the foundation's endowment supported by nearly 400 funds established by Howard County businesses, families and individuals. Visit our website at [www.cfhococo.org](http://www.cfhococo.org).*