

# COMMUNITY FOUNDATION SOUTH PUGET SOUND

## 2020 Community Grants Guidelines

Applications Due Date: September 4

Through our Community Grants, the Community Foundation aims to build community capacity and support individual and community well-being in Thurston, Mason, and Lewis Counties. The program is made possible by generous donors who have contributed unrestricted and broadly defined area-of-interest gifts which allow us to respond to the community's changing opportunities and challenges over time.

Our goal for the program is to make grants to broad segment of the nonprofit organizations that contribute to the social, health, and environmental well-being of our communities including arts and culture, environment, health and wellness, education, economic opportunity, basic needs and human services, and community and civic engagement. [VIEW 2019 COMMUNITY GRANTS RECIPIENTS](#)

### Program Details

- We award roughly 80 grants annually through our Community Grants program
- Award amounts will range from \$1,500 to \$5,000
- Total awards through this program in 2020 will be approximately \$400,000
- There is one Community Grants cycle in 2020 with an open application period from July 20 through September 4, 2020
- Grant checks for successful applications will be processed in late December 2020

### Program Objectives

In reviewing grant proposals, the Community Foundation considers the following:

- **Impact:** Our goal is to support a broad range of organizations contributing to individual and community well-being. We seek to fund organizations across a variety of focus areas including, but not limited to arts and culture, community and civic engagement, environment and animals, health and wellness, basic needs, and economic opportunity.
- **Geography:** Organization primarily operates in our service area or fills an unmet need within our service area.
- **Community Partnerships:** Organization carries out their work in coordination with local community partners.
- **Population Served:** We support nonprofits that provide services to all populations, and we prioritize populations with unequal access to resources and opportunities.
- **Accountability:** Organization's services are designed appropriately for the communities they serve. Organization meaningfully engages the voices, perspectives, and expertise of their program participants.
- **Organizational Capacity:** organization demonstrates reasonable capacity and financial health.

Grants Committees review and score applications and make recommendations to the Board of Directors.

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## Most Grants Will Be Unrestricted

“Unrestricted grants” refers to an investment in a grantee’s mission, rather than specific projects or programs. It allows grantees to use funds as they see fit to reach their goals—such as salaries and overhead, technology, or a marketing campaign. To qualify for unrestricted grants, an organization’s headquarters must be based in Thurston, Mason, or Lewis County and must meet all other eligibility requirements posted in the 2020 Community Grants Guidelines.

We will accept applications from organizations with a regional or statewide geography. Your application should tell us how grant funds will be used for programs and services within our geography. We will accept applications for programs run by religious organizations if the program meets a critical need in the community and does not require religious participation. Organizations who qualify for one of these exceptions must meet all other 2020 Community Grants Guidelines.

[Click here to read more about the changes](#) we have made to this year’s Community Grants process.

## Eligibility

The Community Foundation of South Puget Sound makes grants to 501(c)(3) public charities that serve Thurston, Mason, and Lewis County residents. Organization must acknowledge that 100% of Community Foundation grant funds will be used in our geography. If your organization or group is not a 501(c)(3), you must secure a fiscal sponsor.

### Not eligible:

- Organizations that discriminate with regard to age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, national origin, religious affiliation, or presence of a disability
- Individuals
- Partisan political activities
- Religious organizations when funds would be used in whole or in part to further the organization’s religious purposes
- National and statewide organizations that cannot demonstrate a local presence in Lewis, Mason, or Thurston Counties
- Re-granting organizations
- Service clubs and service club foundations
- Schools, school districts, PTOs, preschools, and daycares
- Sports teams

## Nondiscrimination Policy

The Community Foundation of South Puget Sound does not support organizations that discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, disabilities, age, status as a veteran, national origin, or any other protected classes.

## Due Date

Applications are due on Friday, September 4 at 11:59pm. Applications received after the due date will not be accepted. *Please note that staff will be available to answer questions and offer technical assistance until 5:00pm on Friday, September 4. We recommend beginning your application before the due date—especially if you are new to our online grants system.*

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## Apply Now

To apply, you will need to create an account in our online grants platform if you don't already have one. Once you start the application you can save your work throughout the process and come back to it later. We recommend you read through the grant and eligibility guidelines before starting your application. If you have any questions about your eligibility, please contact Melissa Rosscup at [mrosscup@thecommunityfoundation.com](mailto:mrosscup@thecommunityfoundation.com) or 360-705-3340.

## Contact Us!

We welcome and encourage questions about the Community Grants process. Please feel free to get in touch with staff for questions about eligibility, the online grants system, your proposal, or anything else about the Community Grants process. We strive to respond to all inquiries within 48 hours. Contact Melissa Rosscup at [mrosscup@thecommunityfoundation.com](mailto:mrosscup@thecommunityfoundation.com) or (360) 705-3340.

## 2020 Community Grants Timeline

September 4	Applications due
Sept-October	Committee Review
Early December	Award notifications
December 31	Grant checks mailed

## Online Grants Platform

The Community Foundation of South Puget Sound uses an online grants platform. The platform compiles information and support materials for the Community Foundation's grant programs. If you are new to our online grants platform, you will need to create an account in our system. At the time of registration, you will be asked to enter the following information:

- A username that is an email address
- Your contact information
- Your organization's information, including the EIN/Tax ID number (required)
- Contact information for the organization's Executive Director or CEO

Some suggestions for using the online grants platform:

- Character limits include spaces and punctuation
- Be sure to save your work frequently by clicking the "Save" button at the bottom of the page
- Be sure to select "Apply" before beginning your application; data entered in the "Preview" page will not be saved
- The size of text boxes may be adjusted by dragging the lower right corner
- Required fields are indicated with an asterisk
- To create a PDF version of your application that you can save and/or print, click the "Application Packet" button at the top of the page

## Additional Information

APPLY NOW: [Click here to access the online grants platform.](#)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS: [Click here to view 2020 grant application questions.](#)