HCCEF Grant Guidelines and Policies

Who is Eligible?

To be eligible for funding, an organization/program must:
- Be tax exempt, nonprofit entity classified by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) or a 170(c)(1) governmental entity and/or other charitable groups
- Provide services with Hardin County
- Be operated and organized in compliance with applicable laws prohibiting discrimination

What We Look For

We welcome proposals for projects that benefit a broad spectrum of the community or a chronically underserved segment of the population. We look for projects which:

- Address significant community issues
- Present innovative, creative, and practical proposals that build on community strengths
- Present clear work plans that who the ability to achieve the project's goal
- Focus on strategic innovations that encourage cooperation, create efficiencies and reduce duplication of services
- Develop the leadership potential of the community
- Involve the people served in the planning and implementation of the program
- Demonstrate quality, vision, effectiveness, collaboration and good management
- Provide a plan for sustainability beyond the funding period

What We Fund

We award grants in the areas of Arts/Culture/Humanities, Economic Development, Education, Environment/Animals, Health, Human Services and Public/Society Benefit.

1. **Arts/Culture/Humanities**

   Programs that increase access to and awareness of arts and culture

   - Encourage participation and heighten awareness in the arts and culture among underserved populations
   - Increase public exposure to and appreciation of different ethnic and cultural art forms
   - Support efforts that encourage life-long learning experiences

2. Economic Development

Programs that address community development, both social and economic

- Encourage community responsibility for solving community problems
- Develop leadership opportunities for youth, minorities and the economically disadvantaged
- Ensure equal-opportunity in housing, services, and economic opportunity
- Build capacity for nonprofits and neighborhood organizations

3. Education

Encompass community education projects that serve all age groups and segments of our population

- Increase literacy and basic skills development
- Develop efforts that address the needs of students who are most at-risk for dropping out of school or not enrolled
- Promote inclusiveness and diversity
- Provide creative approaches to improvement of our educational system

4. Environment/Animals

Programs that address our natural resources and environment

- Enhance awareness of regional environmental issues
- Encourage responsible stewardship and conservation of our natural resources

5. Health

Encompass social services projects that benefit the underserved segments of our community. For example, issues of homelessness, health care, hunger, poverty and the elderly

- Empower the underserved to seek solutions
- Promote self-sufficiency
- Programs that focus on long-term approaches to issues
- Provide independence to the elderly and/or persons with disabilities
- Improve access to health care
- Strengthen the capacity of human service organizations to service their constituencies

6. **Human Services**

    Programs that enhance the quality of life for children and youth through opportunities to enhance their intellectual, emotional, physical, and social development

    - Support models that encourage an alliance of shared responsibility and coordination of resources among schools, parents and community-based organizations
    - Enhance life options of youth through such means as improved basic skills and development of work, life management, and leadership development skills; and reduction of risk-taking behaviors
    - Support efforts to enhance parental understanding of strategies they can use to improve the educational attainment of their children

7. **Public/Social Benefit**

    Programs that address community development, both social and economic

    - Encourage community responsibility for solving community problems
    - Develop leadership opportunities for youth, minorities and the economically disadvantaged
    - Benefit the community's low- and moderate-income population
    - Ensure equal-opportunity in housing, services, and economic opportunity
    - Build capacity for nonprofits and neighborhood organizations

What We Do Not Fund

In general, grants are not made from the Community Grants Program for the following:
    - Ongoing project support and operating support
    - Annual and capital campaigns
    - Equipment, unless it is essential for the program
    - Budget deficit
    - Endowments
    - Individuals
    - Recurring funds
    - Religious purposes (this does not exclude grants to religious organizations for non-religious purposes)
    - Signage, memorials, statues and plaques