

# Future Fund Grant Guidelines

## Mission

Future Fund is a group of donors within the Community Foundation of Abilene. These individuals are committed to improving the quality of life in Abilene by focusing on the needs of children and youth. Earnings from the Future Fund Endowment make grants to charitable organizations serving our younger population possible.

## Types of Projects to be Funded

Future Fund will consider funding for special projects and equipment needs for programs that directly serve **children and/or youth** in our community. Future Fund welcomes proposals from any non-profit organization in Abilene with an IRS tax-exempt status.

## Grant Size

Future Fund awards a minimum of \$15,000 in total grants each year. Most grants range from \$2,500 to \$5,000, although larger requests can be considered.

## Funding Request Procedures

Future Fund awards grants once a year. To ensure consideration in 2016, a grant proposal must be submitted online by **5:00 p.m. on Friday, January 6, 2017**.

## Online Access

The Foundation utilizes an online grants management system called Foundant GLM. All requested data must be submitted through this system, and applicant tutorials are available on the CFA website. Paper applications are no longer accepted for Future Fund Grant Cycles. Online forms for the upcoming grant cycles will be accessible June 30, 2016 by visiting [www.cfabilene.org/nonprofits](http://www.cfabilene.org/nonprofits).

## Proposal Review Process

The Future Fund Grant Committee will review proposals received and arrange site visits if necessary or desired. The chances of your agency's proposal being funded are substantially increased if the project:

- ◆ Proposes a practical solution to a youth or children's issue;
- ◆ Promotes volunteer participation in the community;
- ◆ Is responsive to changing or emerging community needs;
- ◆ Leverages or generates other funding or resources;
- ◆ Promotes cooperation among nonprofit agencies without duplicating efforts;
- ◆ Addresses prevention as well as assistance for a problem.

Consideration is also given to the capability of the agency and its staff and volunteers to achieve expected results, the adequacy and professionalism of the budget, and the support and cooperation of agencies involved in similar projects.

## Precluded Activities

As a rule, Future Fund will not make grants for:

- ◆ Medical or scholarly research;
- ◆ Maintenance expenses;
- ◆ Membership fees;
- ◆ Ticket sales for charitable fundraising events;
- ◆ Church related activities unless they involve children in the entire community;
- ◆ Travel for groups, such as school classes, clubs or sports teams;
- ◆ Participation in out of town camps;
- ◆ Projects, programs or events that have been completed or items that have already been purchased;
- ◆ Capital debt reduction;
- ◆ Individuals;
- ◆ Political projects.

## Evaluation

The Community Foundation of Abilene requires nonprofit organizations to report on the impact of programs it funds. The evaluation includes details about the need the program attempted to meet, its objectives, elements, measurable outcomes, the role of partners, plans for the future, opportunities for improvement, and an accounting of expenditures. The online evaluation is generally required within 6 months of the grant's issuance, or prior to the next year's grant cycle. Organizations that do not submit program evaluations will be ineligible to reapply for future grants.

## Need More Information?

Please call Michelle Parrish at the Community Foundation office, (325) 676-3883 or e-mail at [mparrish@cfabilene.org](mailto:mparrish@cfabilene.org).



*A program of the  
Community Foundation of Abilene*



**Community  
Foundation  
of Abilene**

*Philanthropy that enriches our community.*