



2021 Granting Information

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- I. Important Dates
- II. Background on EPCF Granting
- III. Granting Priorities
- IV. How to Apply for a 2021 Grant

I. IMPORTANT DATES

If you are thinking of applying for a 2021 grant from the Eden Prairie Community Foundation, here are important dates to remember:

Nov. 1, 2020 – Foundation begins accepting grant applications

Dec. 23, 2020 – Final deadline for applications

February/March 2021 – Decision on grant awards

Shortly thereafter – Presentation of grant checks

II. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON EPCF GRANTING

The Eden Prairie Community Foundation supports programs that align with its mission: “Enriching our community through philanthropy, collaboration and leadership.”

Since its beginning in 1981, the Foundation has awarded more than \$2 million in direct grants to more than 100 different nonprofits and agencies serving Eden Prairie. These funds have traditionally gone to organizations and projects that address needs in the following priority areas:

- Arts and culture
- Education
- Recreation and environment
- Social services
- Youth development

These direct grants – often called **Discretionary Grants** – are awarded through an annual, competitive, and open grant application process. But these grants are just one part of the Foundation’s overall granting program and its effort to be inventive, inclusive, and reactive to the needs of Eden Prairie. Other granting takes place through:

Donor Advised Funds – These grants are awarded at the recommendation of the Foundation’s donor advised fund holders. Most of these grants support nonprofits’ general operations or core programs. They rarely involve a competitive process. It is more likely that a fund holder is aware of the good work of a nonprofit and recommends support for it.

Community-Impact Funds and Initiatives – These grants are awarded from other funds held at the Foundation, including community-impact funds for various organizations and projects, such as Eden Prairie Reads, Interfaith Circle, Eden Prairie Local News, and Friends of Eden Prairie Players. Also, funds related to the Foundation’s Youth Initiative, including the PROP Youth Scholarship Fund, the CounterAct Fund, and the Dr. Jean L. Harris Scholarship Fund.

Brewfest Choice Grants – Launched in fall 2019, these are several small grants awarded by the Foundation after voting by attendees of the Prairie Brewfest fundraising event in September. Funding priorities mirrored those used for discretionary grants, but a shorter application was utilized. (Note: The 2020 Prairie Brewfest was canceled due to the pandemic; Brewfest Choice Grants were not awarded.)

III. GRANTING PRIORITIES FOR DISCRETIONARY (DIRECT) GRANTS

The Foundation has an annual cycle for direct grants. Applications typically taken in November and December; reviewed by the EPCF Grant Committee and Board of Directors in January and February; and awarded in April or May at the Foundation’s EP Gives event.

Areas of Focus

- *Arts & Culture* – Supports programs and organizations that enhance the quality of life in our community through music, visual and performing arts, and museums.
- *Education* – Supports programs that provide instruction for children and adults – most often outside the classroom – which are offered by established institution or nonprofit organizations, as well as programs that offer learning or community development opportunities.
- *Recreation & Environment* – Supports programs that engage children and adults in activities that improve or sustain the quality of our natural resources. Also supports programs that provide opportunities for children and adults to engage in sports, fitness, and health and recreational activities.
- *Social Services* – Supports programs that provide for important needs for children and adults, families, or community needs such as food, shelter, safety, clothing, and assistance for people with disabilities.
- *Youth Development* – This focus area is less formal than the four mentioned previously, and dates to the Foundation’s 2015 establishment of a Youth Initiative, recognizing that several youth-related concerns bubbled to the top of the priority list at that time.

(Note: Organizations are also encouraged to request and review the Foundation’s 2020 Strategic Plan to learn how your mission may dovetail with the Foundation’s strategic initiatives.)

Eligibility

The Foundation welcomes requests from eligible organizations that meet the following criteria:

- Classified as charitable organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; or classified as an organization under Section 170(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code.

- Provides services to residents within the boundaries of Eden Prairie.
- Is part of a governmental body (such as schools or parks that serve the people of Eden Prairie).

Who We Fund

In determining what to fund, consideration is given to the availability of Foundation resources and funds from other sources. The Foundation concentrates its support toward proposals that fill an unmet need and demonstrate significant community impact, including the number of Eden Prairie residents directly affected.

What We Do Not Fund

The Foundation does not make grants to/for:

- Debt retirement
- Endowments
- Fundraising activities
- Individuals (aside from scholarships initiated or managed by the Foundation)
- Medical research
- Organizations with significant activity considered to be the influencing of legislation
- Political organizations or campaigns
- Religious organizations or those engaged in religious activities
- Requests from re-granting organizations for its own grant making activities
- Tickets for benefits
- Telephone solicitations

IV. HOW TO APPLY FOR A 2021 GRANT

Follow these six simple steps and contact us with any question you have. We are happy to help.

Step 1

Take the Eligibility Quiz

Our simple online quiz will help to determine if you qualify for a grant. The quiz is located at <http://www.epcommunityfoundation.org/what-we-do/nonprofits/eligibility-quiz/>

Step 2

Submit Inquiry

If our Eligibility Quiz has indicated that you qualify for a grant, the next step is to make an inquiry. Provide a short description of your project or proposal and how it will address an unmet need in Eden Prairie. Submit by e-mail to the Foundation's executive director, Mark Weber, at mweber@epcommunityfoundation.org.

Step 3

Submit Application

If an inquiry aligns with one of the Foundation's priority areas and fills a local need, an organization will be encouraged to submit a full application. The Foundation will begin accepting applications for 2021 grants on Nov. 1, 2020, with the deadline being Dec. 23, 2020. Applications and materials must be submitted electronically to Mark Weber by e-mail at mweber@epcommunityfoundation.org.

The Foundation accepts the Minnesota Common Grant Application found at <http://bit.ly/1ep6SB6>. Organizations that wish to submit the Minnesota Common Grant Application are also required to submit the Self-Certification Checklist found on the Foundation website at <http://epcommunityfoundation.org/what-we-do/nonprofits/how-to-apply/>, along with other application information.

Step 4

Application reviewed

Applications are acknowledged as they are submitted. Staff will contact you if there are follow-up questions or more information is needed. Proposals will be reviewed for the strength of the match with funding priorities, the potential benefit to the community, the extent to which an unmet need is being met, the number of residents impacted, and the capability of the organization to achieve the proposed results.

Step 5

Grant Awarded or Declined

Staff, committees, corporate partners, and fund holders review the proposals with the executive director. The EPCF Board of Directors makes the final grant determination and presents the grants at the spring EP Gives event. Organizations will be notified of the outcome of their proposal once the Board makes the final grant-making decision, typically in February or March. If a proposal is declined, you may contact staff to engage in further discussion regarding the outcome. Keep in mind that the Foundation receives more applications than it is able to fund.

Step 6

Funds Disbursed

When a grant is approved, a grant agreement will be sent to you for your review and completion. Upon the return of the signed agreement, a check will be processed for presentation at EP Gives.

(Grant periods are typically one year, unless otherwise noted. A final grant report is due at the end of the calendar year in which the grant is awarded. For more information about the granting process, contact Executive Director Mark Weber at mweber@epcommunityfoundation.org or 952-949-8499.)