



2018 Fund for Louisville Grants Program Overview and Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Fund for Louisville?

The Fund for Louisville is the Community Foundation of Louisville's largest unrestricted grant making fund. It is made up of 42 funds established by individual and family donors with the purpose of supporting Louisville's ongoing needs.

Over the past four years, the Fund for Louisville, together with our partner foundations Lift a Life Foundation and the James Graham Brown Foundation, has provided \$1.2 million in capacity building grants for 70 nonprofit organizations.

What is capacity building, and what types of projects are eligible for funding?

Capacity building projects address the internal workings and effectiveness of a nonprofit organization rather than programs. Unlike funding for program or operations support, capacity building grants are intended to be one-time, transformative investments that will make a significant difference in the way the organization works.

We believe that strong nonprofit organizations lead to more effective programs and greater community impact. By investing in these organizations for things like technology upgrades, strategy development, professional development, and evaluation and feasibility studies, we have helped strengthen the leaders, systems, and plans that enable nonprofits to pursue and achieve their missions.

Capacity building projects can include, but are not limited to, activities such as:

- Needs assessments
- Board and staff professional development/training
- Improvement to financial, internal communication or data management systems
- Technology upgrades

- Planning required for merger or collaboration

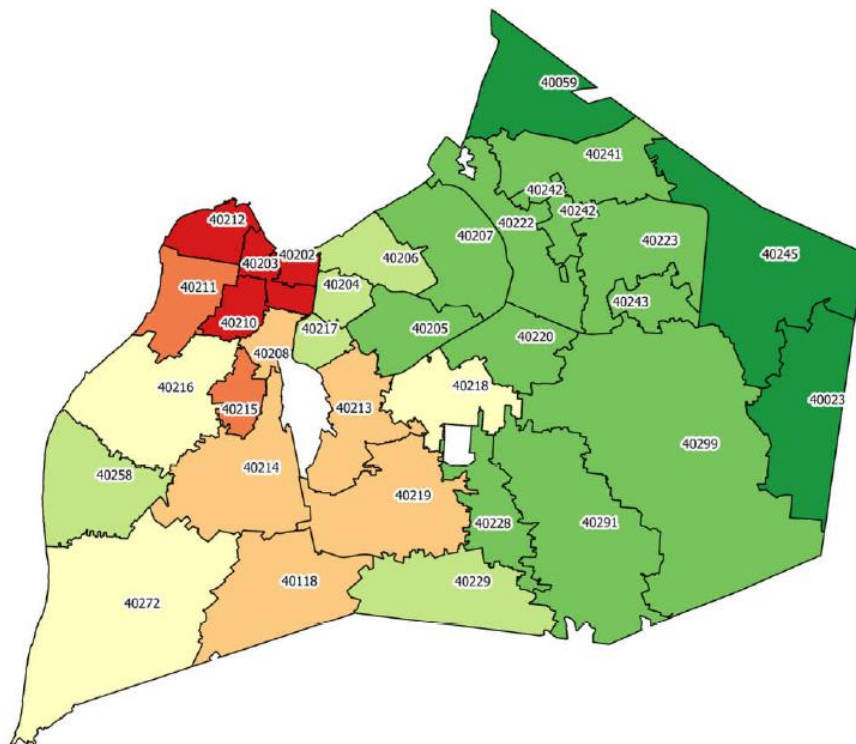
What is the strategic focus for the 2018 capacity building grants?

As an innovator in philanthropy, we continually evaluate Louisville’s greatest challenges and opportunities, using data, research, and on-the-ground knowledge and experience to inform our grant making approaches.

As a founding partner and continuing supporter of the Greater Louisville Project, we were drawn to its latest report, [“A Focus on Poverty.”](#) The report highlights how multi-dimensional poverty disproportionately affect Louisville’s western and south central neighborhoods and demonstrates clearly how scarcity in parts of our community affects us all.

Poverty is commonly thought of simply as lack of income. Multi-dimensional poverty acknowledges that lack of education, poor health, and few job opportunities also impact an individual’s ability to thrive.

Starting with our 2018 grants, the Community Foundation will use the Fund for Louisville to make grants that respond to the report’s findings. We remain committed to capacity building, but will apply a strategic focus to the capacity building grants by investing in the nonprofit organizations which are strengthening the people and places in Louisville’s 11 most distressed ZIP codes, which are in red and orange in the map below.



The Community Foundation is committed to this focus for at least three years, with the hope that these grants build the infrastructure these organizations need to transform lives in the most distressed parts of our community.

Who can apply for a 2018 grant?

Organizations that:

- Are nonprofit, 501(c)(3) public charities in good standing, or charitable projects that are fiscally sponsored by a tax-exempt organization.
- Can demonstrate how their work transforms lives for residents in one or more of the 11 target ZIP codes that are concentrated in the western and south central parts of our community (specifically: 40202, 40203, 40208, 40210, 40211, 40212, 40213, 40214, 40215, 40219, 40118).
- Work to address one or more of the following: education, health, income, employment, or community development.
- Can describe a capacity building investment that will strengthen the organization's efficiency, effectiveness, or sustainability.

Please note:

- Organizations that received a 2017 Fund for Louisville capacity building grant are not eligible for a 2018 grant. However, prior recipients of Fund for Louisville capacity building grants may apply.

How can I apply?

The online application process begins with a Letter of Intent, which will be posted on our grant application website on June 19, 2017 and remain open until July 28, 2017. After review, selected organizations will be asked to submit a full application. Grantees will be selected and announced in December 2017 for capacity building projects to begin in January 2018.

Information sessions focusing on grant writing and capacity building will be held in May 2017. These sessions will be of most value to nonprofit organizations that are new, new to grant writing, and/or new to the Community Foundation of Louisville.

Additional information sessions will be held in late June to provide an overview of the Letter of Intent and answer questions from potential applicants.

Grant Application Website: Please log into the Foundation's grant website to view and submit the Letter of Intent, when available. You may also create an account at any time. If your organization already has an account but you do not recall the password, please use the "reset my password" link or contact Liz Alkire for assistance (contact information is shared on the Foundation's website).

How many grants will be awarded?

The Community Foundation expects to award at least \$350,000 in 2018 capacity building grants. The maximum grant size is \$20,000, but applicants may request a grant of any size, up to \$20,000.

What expenses are allowed? What expenses are not allowed?

Capacity building grants may pay for the costs of consulting services, hardware, software, website upgrades, costs associated with professional development (conference/training fees, travel, lodging, food, etc.), and reasonable costs for staff time directly in support of the capacity building project's objectives.

Grants may not be used to pay debt or expenses incurred prior to the grant award date. Grants may not fund a staff person solely to complete duties described in her/his job description. For instance, the grant may not be used to pay an individual to fundraise for the organization. The grant may be used to create a fundraising strategy, however.

How are grantees selected?

A grant review committee, comprised of members from the Community Foundation's Board of Directors, staff, partner foundations, and community volunteers will be responsible for evaluating applications and recommending grantees to the Foundation's full Board. The review committee will seek to support as many organizations as possible with the funds available that:

- Are clearly transforming lives in one or more of the 11 target ZIP codes.
- Have a capacity building need that is timely, well planned, and will have impact that is able to be measured or recognized by the organization.

In addition:

- The Community Foundation will seek to award an equal number of grants to nonprofit organizations with smaller budgets.
- The Foundation wishes to fund most or all of a proposed project cost (instead of funding a small percentage).
- The Foundation will fully fund selected grant requests (it will not provide partial awards)

My organization is not eligible for a 2018 capacity building grant. Does the Foundation offer other competitive grant opportunities?

The Community Foundation supports Louisville's nonprofit community in many different ways, including an annual online giving day, sharing information about grant opportunities offered by giving circles and other local organizations, and convening nonprofits for regular, free "Coffee and Conversation" events to network and learn from one another.

The Foundation utilizes most funds available to support capacity building grants each year, but will award any funds remaining in a separate grant process in February 2018.

The Foundation communicates information to Louisville's nonprofit community via email, so if your organization is not already receiving nonprofit updates and communication from us, please sign up for the Community Foundation's E-news. You may find the link to sign up at the bottom of our website, www.cflouisville.org