The Columbus Foundation and Supporting Foundations Grant Guide

Use this guide to identify grantmaking areas that may be a potential fit for your organization. Then, visit our Grant Opportunities page to learn more!

About Our Grantmaking:
The Columbus Foundation administers thousands of grants every year. The vast majority of these grants are directed by living donors who hold Donor Advised Funds at the Foundation. These grants are not made via a competitive application process. This guide details the grant programs that do accept competitive applications for funding consideration. While Foundation staff review grant proposals, the funds that support them are often established with instructions from the original donor to impact a specific area of interest—like the arts, environment, or education—or a specific, named, organization. These instructions and guidelines are interpreted as “donor intent.”

Ingram-White Castle Foundation, Columbus Youth Foundation, Paul G. Duke Foundation, and the Siemer Family Foundation are Supporting Foundations. Each foundation has its own board of directors that determines their grantmaking interest areas, geographic area of focus, grantmaking process, and deadlines, which differ from the grantmaking of The Columbus Foundation.

Please note, The Columbus Foundation does not connect nonprofits directly with individual donors.

START HERE!
Are you a nonprofit organization with 501(c)(3) status?

NO

Do you serve Franklin County?

YES

PAUL G. DUKE FOUNDATION FOR MIAMI COUNTY
Funds Outside of Franklin County

ARTS & CULTURE

MAJOR ARTS FUND
COMMUNITY ARTS FUND

DOROTHY E. ANN FUND (D.E.A.F.)
CORE SUPPORT
TARGETED FUNDS

INGRAM-WHITE CASTLE FOUNDATION
SIEMER FAMILY FOUNDATION

TARGETED FUNDS

NEIGHBORHOODS & COMMUNITY GARDENS

FUND FOR FINANCIAL INNOVATION

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE & MERGERS

START HERE!
Are you a nonprofit organization with 501(c)(3) status?

YES

The following grant programs accept applications from groups that partner with a 501(c)(3) as a fiscal sponsor.

Other grant categories may consider applications under a fiscal sponsor on a case-by-case basis.

YOUTH & EDUCATION

INGRAM-WHITE CASTLE FOUNDATION
SIEMER FAMILY FOUNDATION
COLUMBUS YOUTH FOUNDATION
TARGETED FUNDS

ENVIRONMENT

TARGETED FUNDS

NEIGHBORHOODS & COMMUNITY GARDENS

SCOTTS MIRACLE-GRO COMMUNITY GARDEN ACADEMY GRANTS

COMPETITIVE GRANT DOLLARS
Support a variety of activities and programs in Franklin County.

BASIC NEEDS

TARGETED FUNDS

CORE SUPPORT

ANIMALS

TARGETED FUNDS

CORE SUPPORT

FUND FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS
How are grants distributed at The Columbus Foundation?

The following percentages reflect a typical year of grantmaking.

The Columbus Foundation grants described here are determined through the competitive application process.

Donor Directed (Donor Advised Fund) and Supporting Foundations grants represent the balance of grants made each year.

### Average Annual Grantmaking

- **95%**: Donor Directed and Supporting Foundations Grants ($144.1 million)
- **5%**: The Columbus Foundation Competitive Grants ($7.3 million)

### The Columbus Foundation Competitive Grants

- **21%**: Fund for Civic and Community
- **26%**: Fund for Innovative Operations
- **37%**: Fund for Targeted Needs
- **11%**: Fund for Community Improvement
- **5%**: Fund for Capital Improvement

### Fund for Community Improvement
Funded organizations benefit from a close working relationship with Community Research and Grants Management staff. The fund supports neighborhood revitalization, as well as programs and systems that connect youth to transformative opportunities.

### Fund for Targeted Needs
Supports a wide variety of donor interests, including health, animal welfare, community improvement, conservation, youth development, substance abuse, special populations, and more.

### Fund for Innovative Operations
Supports transformative and pioneering ideas in the following categories: Fund for Financial Innovation (partnerships, acquisitions, mergers, and social enterprise); Arts & Culture (Community Arts and Major Arts); and the non-competitive category of Continuous Improvement, which focuses on strengthening, bringing to scale, and building the capacity of select nonprofit organizations.

### Fund for Civic and Community
This non-competitive grant category is positioned to respond to unique community needs and supports initiatives and activities that improve and strengthen our community.

Learn more about these funds in The Columbus Foundation’s Nonprofit Center.