Generous Acts at Adirondack Foundation

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What types of organizations, programs, or projects does Generous Acts support?**
   We seek applications that align with the following priority program areas: wellbeing, educational opportunity, and economic vitality. We will fund operations or specific programs/projects, but do not typically fund large capital campaigns, tuition assistance or re-granting programs.

2. **Can you elaborate on the Foundation's priority areas?**
   - **Wellbeing**
     Providing basic needs for people such as food and housing, creating age-friendly communities, enhancing home and community-based services from early childhood development to elder care
   - **Educational Opportunity**
     Promoting literacy, improving school-readiness for young children, enhancing educational experiences for learners of all ages, strengthening post-secondary pathways and support networks for education and employment
   - **Economic Vitality**
     Supporting workforce initiatives to fill local employment needs, improving access to child care and other support services for working families, investing in local programs that demonstrate clear economic benefits

3. **Who can apply for support?**
   Nonprofit organizations, schools, and municipalities located in or serving the people of the Adirondack Region, defined for this purpose as all of Clinton, Franklin, Essex, and Hamilton counties as well as the parts of St. Lawrence, Warren, Herkimer, and Washington counties within the Adirondack Park boundary.

4. **How much grant money will be available this year compared to last year?**
   The Foundation anticipates issuing approximately $300,000 in Generous Acts grants in 2020, compared to $200,000 in 2019. Plus, applications submitted through this process are shared with other funders who may choose to support specific requests. Giving together this way amplifies our collective impact and supports more local needs. Last year, this led to more than an additional $100,000 in grants.

5. **How can we apply for support?**
   Applications must be submitted online: adirondackfoundation.org/online-grants-manager (please see grants-manager tip sheet)

6. **What is the average grant size?**
   Typical grants range from $1,000 - $5,000. There may be a limited number as high as $20,000.

7. **How often will applications be accepted?**
   Once a year. The 2020 application will open on December 23, 2019 and must be completed by close of business on February 3, 2020.

8. **How are applications evaluated?**
   Applications are evaluated based on the degree to which the request aligns with Adirondack Foundation's priority program areas, as well as effectiveness, articulation of need (e.g., reaching an under-served population, backed by data), and capacity of applicant to carry out the work.

9. **How is our application reviewed?**
   During the review process, we may call an applicant for additional information or clarification, request a meeting, or reach out to regional experts for guidance.

10. **If I'm applying on behalf of a town or a school program, do I need to submit the full town or school budget?**
    No, please just share your project budget in the "budget and timeline" field and upload a summary of the town or school overall expenses in the "financial statements" field.

11. **Do you have any additional tips for applicants?**
    Yes, we have a few:
    - Please tie your request to the larger problem you are trying to solve or need you are addressing and use data if you can.
    - Write in the active voice; tell us a compelling story about who benefits from your work.
    - To the extent possible, we'd prefer a single application from a school rather than from individual teachers. (The request can be for multiple efforts within the same school; we encourage you to collaborate.)

12. **If we have received grants from other funds at Adirondack Foundation, can we still apply to Generous Acts?**
    Absolutely!

13. **What other funds at Adirondack Foundation accept grant applications?**
    We have other funds dedicated to specific geographic areas and fields of interest that accept applications. Please visit our website to learn more: adirondackfoundation.org.