DULUTH SUPERIOR AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

FAIR CHANCE FUND GUIDELINES

FUND MISSION

The mission of the Fair Chance Fund is to challenge leaders in education and human services to think in fresh ways about the nature and delivery of service to low-income people, and to support innovative and collaborative projects that empower families in our region to overcome poverty. The Fair Chance Fund will provide support for the planning and/or implementation of projects that propose effective, long-term solutions by:

1) reducing the long-term dependency of families on public assistance programs,
2) decreasing the effects of poverty on children, and
3) providing opportunities for economic self-sufficiency.

The Fair Chance Fund has several related objectives:

- To creatively reduce the long-term dependence of families on public assistance. Such efforts may include strengthening the coordination and delivery of services, reducing obstacles to self-sufficiency, or reallocating resources to enhance services to people living in poverty.

- To encourage the evaluation and reform of current policies, programs and services to make them more effective in fostering economic independence.

- To give special attention to the needs of parents in both two-parent and single-parent families. Those needs include acquiring the education and training required good-paying jobs, and obtaining the support services (e.g. career planning, child care, transportation) that make pursuit of education and training possible.

- To promote a holistic and empowering approach to combating family poverty by supporting projects that see the child in the context of the family and the family in the context of its surroundings, and that aim to empower families to achieve long-term self-sufficiency.

- To encourage new collaborative projects among organizations and agencies in the region that will strengthen the type and delivery of services to the poor. Especially encouraged are public-private partnerships and links between service providers and local employers.

- To develop non-traditional ways of addressing the problem of poverty that cross professional and bureaucratic boundaries, in order to fill the gaps and overcome the limitations of conventional services.

Planning grants are awarded in amounts up to $3,000 for single agencies and up to $6,000 for collaborative efforts. Implementation grants generally range from $3,000 to $10,000.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to apply for funding, an organization must:

- be classified as a charitable organization 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; and
be located in or provide service to residents within the seven counties of northeast Minnesota (Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake and St. Louis) and/or the three counties in northwest Wisconsin (Bayfield, Douglas and Ashland).

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Potential applicants should first submit a Letter of Intent, via the Community Foundation’s website at [http://www.dsacommunityfoundation.com/apply-for-a-grant](http://www.dsacommunityfoundation.com/apply-for-a-grant). Once you have contacted us with information about your project/program via the online grant application, staff will contact you regarding fund-specific guidelines and the application process. Applicants can also contact Community Foundation staff by telephone at 218.726.0232 or by email at [grantsinfo@dsacommunityfoundation.com](mailto:grantsinfo@dsacommunityfoundation.com).

The Letter of Intent must be submitted using the online grant application portal at least 2 weeks prior to the deadline. Based on the outcome of the LOI, an organization may be encouraged to submit a full proposal through the online portal. The Community Foundation’s Grant Application Process is outlined on the website, along with a step-by-step tutorial for utilizing the online grant application. Please utilize the Community Foundation staff as a resource throughout the application process and contact staff with any questions by email at [grantsinfo@dsacommunityfoundation.com](mailto:grantsinfo@dsacommunityfoundation.com) or by telephone at 218.726.0232.

The deadline for receipt of proposals for the Fair Chance Fund is October 1. The Board of Trustees will determine grants at the December meeting. If awarded, funds would be available in January. Grant awards may not be used retroactively. Complete proposals are to be submitted via the grants portal website before 5:00 p.m. on the deadline date. If the deadline falls on a weekend or holiday, complete proposals are due before 5:00 p.m. on the next business day following the deadline date.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE:
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