

The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation Funds - Frequently Asked Questions

Specifically pertaining to the four areas of interest fund at the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo. For more information about how to apply directly to the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation, please visit <http://www.ralphcwilsonjrfoundation.org/how-to-apply/>.

1. What are the areas of interest for these funds?

Caregiving, Community Assets, Design and Access, and Youth Sports.

2. Do these funds have geographic requirements?

The Community Assets fund is limited to Erie County; Caregiving, Design and Access, and Youth Sports are open to all of Western New York which is defined as Allegany, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans and Wyoming counties.

3. How much money is available for grants in 2017?

Caregiving: \$150,000; Community Assets: \$150,000; Design and Access: \$250,000; Youth Sports: \$250,000.

4. What size grant can I request?

Grant requests should range from \$10,000 – \$25,000 for Caregiving, Community Assets and Youth Sports. Grant requests should range from \$10,000 – \$50,000 for Design and Access.

5. How do I apply?

Letters of Intent (LOI) and applications are only accepted online at <http://www.cfgb.org/wilson-funds/>. We will begin accepting LOIs on **January 3, 2017**. LOIs are due by **4 p.m. on January 20, 2017**. Organizations can expect to hear if they have been invited to submit a full application by mid-February.

There will be an optional meeting for prospective applicants on December 13, 2016 (Caregiving at 10:30-11:30 a.m., Community Assets at 12:00-1:00 p.m., Design and Access at 1:30-2:30 p.m., Youth Sports at 3:00-4:00 p.m.) at the Community Foundation located at 726 Exchange Street, Suite 525. Please email Laura Schwamborn at LauraS@cfgb.org by December 9, 2016 with which session(s) you plan to attend.

6. May I email or mail my grant request?

No, applications are only accepted online at <http://www.cfgb.org/wilson-funds/>.

7. When are funds available?

Awards from the 2017 cycle will be distributed after May 31, 2017 for projects that begin and end during the time period of June 1, 2017 – May 31, 2018.

8. Will the Fund consider a multi-year request?

No, multi-year grant requests will not be considered.

9. Are municipalities eligible to apply for funding?

For Community Assets, Design and Access, and Youth Sports only organizations with an IRS 501(c)(3) designation are eligible for funding. For Caregiving, both organizations with an IRS 501(c)(3) designation and government agencies are eligible for funding.

10. Will requests outside of the Fund's areas of interest be considered?

No.

11. Are there restrictions on what the grant can be used to support?

Yes. The Fund will not consider requests for support of endowments; religious purposes; attendance at or sponsorship of fundraising events; partisan political activity; schools not registered with the New York State Education Department; and for actions or activities that take place before the grant funding period.

12. What do you mean by 'religious purposes'?

Requests that specifically promote religious activities. Applications for programs/projects that do not focus on religion and that are open and utilized by the general community are eligible for consideration.

13. Will the Fund consider requests for general operating support?

Preference will be given to requests for project and other funding as noted in each field of interest area. See funding guidelines for more information.

14. May I submit more than one grant Letter of Intent to the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation Funds at the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo?

Organizations are limited to one Letter of Intent per funding category, and it is unlikely that organizations will be asked to submit multiple applications. Organizations are encouraged to apply for the project most important to them.

15. Can my 501(c)(3) organization serve as a pass-through agency for a non-incorporated group?

No, 501(c)(3) organizations may not serve as pass-through agencies for non-incorporated groups.

16. Can my organization apply for a grant from this Fund at the Community Foundation and for funding from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation?

Yes. The purposes of the two funding pools are slightly different. The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Field of Interest Funds at the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo were established as an endowment to honor Ralph C. Wilson, Jr.'s legacy in perpetuity. The grants made from these funds are distinct from the grants made by the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation directly.

In most cases, the Field of Interest Funds support localized projects for which a small grant can make all the difference.

The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation aims to support larger initiatives with broad impact and reach with its grantmaking. More information about their grantmaking can be found at: <http://www.ralphcwilsonjrfoundation.org/>.