



2026 Grant Application Guidelines

Links to online pre-applications and select grant applications are available at:

<https://cfgcr.org/grants/>

Shelly Connolly • VP of Community Grantmaking • sconnolly@cfgcr.org

Melisa Logan • Program Officer / Database Administrator • mlogan@cfgcr.org

Table of Contents

Purpose of this Publication...	3
General Guidelines for Grant Applications...	4
Community Foundation Impact Grants...	5
The Albany County Convention and Visitors Bureau Fund...	6
The Bender Family Foundation...	7
The Bender Scientific Fund...	8
The B'nai B'rith Gideon Foundation...	9
The Niskayuna Community Foundation...	10
The Hortense & Louis Rubin Community Health Fund ...	11

PURPOSE OF THIS PUBLICATION

This document provides an overview of the Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region for:

- Grantees and other applicants seeking financial and/or other support;
- Nonprofit organizations, public and governmental entities, as well as business and community groups seeking to form partnerships with the Community Foundation;
- The general public, business community, press and other media seeking information about the nature and scope of the Community Foundation's activities.

Links to online applications and more detailed guidelines for each specific fund are available online at <https://cfgr.org/grants/>.

MISSION

The mission of the Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region is to strengthen our community through philanthropy.

The Foundation accomplishes this in collaboration with donors and community partners who share our vision for community transformation through stewardship of charitable endowments, superior donor services, effective grantmaking and leadership to address community needs.

ABOUT THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Community Foundation helps promote philanthropy in our region by matching individuals, families and organizations with the issues they care about and providing them with efficient and effective giving strategies. Our donors are as diverse as our community and come to the Community Foundation for many different reasons. They are united by a desire to be part of creating a brighter future for the greater Capital Region.

The Community Foundation manages more than 460 funds which are allocated to meet donors' philanthropic goals and the changing needs in our community. These charitable funds have granted over \$100 million since the Foundation's creation in 1968. Often, multiple funds or donors join together to make grants with greater impact than one donor could make alone. All assets are collectively invested, offering donors access to investment strategies and management normally available only to large investors, allowing them to achieve maximum returns.

The majority of grants made by the Community Foundation each year are in partnership with individuals, families and organizations who ask the Foundation to facilitate their giving. Many of our donors enjoy the flexibility of donor advised funds, which allow them to recommend grants to support specific charitable organizations or causes. **Several of our funds have chosen to solicit applications for grants. These funds are among those described in this publication.**

The Foundation also manages several funds that allow discretion to make grants that fund innovative, creative projects and programs that are responsive to changing community needs. These funds, our "Community Impact Funds," are either Discretionary Funds, which allow the Foundation the flexibility to use its extensive knowledge of community issues and organizations to make grants that address emerging issues; or Field of Interest Funds, which give the Foundation grantmaking discretion within given areas of interest. With these Community Impact Funds, the Foundation utilizes the expertise of its staff and Board of Directors to identify opportunities to make grants that will have the most impact in the community. Community Impact Funds are described on page 5 of this document.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS

To be eligible for competitive grants, applicants must meet the following requirements:

- **Qualify under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code as a nonprofit organization OR operate under the fiscal sponsorship of a qualifying nonprofit organization;**
- **Serve residents and be located within the ten-county Capital Region of New York State** (Albany, Columbia, Fulton, Greene, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, and Washington Counties) ***unless otherwise indicated.***

The following are generally **not** eligible for competitive grants:

- Programs that the Community Foundation will have to operate;
- Individuals;
- Scholarship or fellowship programs;
- Research;
- Endowments;
- Political, governmental or religious activities;
- Travel;
- Conferences and/or speakers' expenses;
- Advertisements in programs, journals or other publications;
- Special events and other fundraising events;
- Annual appeals or membership contributions.

TECHNICAL TIPS FOR COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT APPLICATIONS

- Beginning in January 2024, all Community Foundation grant pre-applications and applications and accompanying materials will be submitted using our new online application portal. Links to applications will be available at www.cfgcr.org.
- Links to full applications will not be posted online for funds requiring pre-applications. If your organization is invited to submit a full application, the application link will be emailed to you.
- You can sign up to receive free email grant deadline updates and nonprofit resources from the Community Foundation. To sign up, visit www.cfgcr.org and enter your email address in the "Stay Informed" box on the bottom right side of the home page, and select "Grant Opportunities" and/or "Not for Profit Organization Information." Emails are generally sent out 10 times a year.

Community Foundation Impact Grants

FUNDING PRIORITIES

The Foundation manages several funds that allow discretion to make grants that fund projects and programs that are responsive to changing community needs. These funds, our “Community Impact Funds,” are either **Discretionary Funds**, which allow the Foundation the flexibility to use its extensive knowledge of community issues and organizations to make grants that address emerging issues; or **Field-of-Interest Funds**, which give the Foundation grantmaking discretion within given areas of interest. With these funds, the Foundation utilizes the expertise of its staff and Board of Directors to identify opportunities to make grants that will have the most impact in the community.

IMPACT GRANTS

Due to restrictions placed on some of our funds by our donors, preference may be given to organizations and/or programs that address the following issues:

1. **Homelessness:** Organizations/programs that serve the needs of a homeless population;
2. **Disabilities:** Organizations/programs that serve the needs of the intellectually and/or physically disabled, including the hearing and sight impaired;
3. **Land Conservation and Preservation:** Organizations/programs that focus on the preservation/conservation of land for the protection of wildlife;
4. **New Americans:** Organizations/programs that focus on supporting new Americans;
5. **Programs that benefit the residents of Amsterdam, NY:** Organizations/programs that focus on the provision of services to the residents of Amsterdam, NY.

GRANT SIZE & DURATION

Community Foundation Impact Grants usually range from \$1,000 to \$15,000. Grant period will not exceed one year.

SCHEDULE

Pre- Application Questionnaires Due:	Applications Due:	Decisions Will Be Made:
N/A	February 20, 2026	May 2026

*Occasionally, complex applications will require additional time to review.
Applicants will be kept informed of their proposal's progress.*

The Albany County Convention and Visitors Bureau Fund

FUNDING PRIORITIES

This fund was established to support Albany County’s hospitality industry by funding programs that will help build and sustain Albany County tourism destinations, attractions, events and other tourism-related activities.

The following types of organizations/programs are examples of those that would qualify for grants:

- Located in Albany County;
- Events of a permanent nature that support and enhance tourism infrastructure and the positive image of Albany as a destination;
- Activities that will increase attendance and tourism within Albany County;
- Capital campaigns and requests for capital expenditures;
- Challenge grants where grants may be used as matches for other foundations’ grants.

In addition, the Fund:

- Will consider grants spread over a specific number of years (when appropriate);
- Encourages collaboration between nonprofit organizations, community groups and hospitality businesses;
- Encourages applicants to demonstrate how many hotel stays will be generated by the grant activity;
- Cannot make grants to individuals.

GRANT SIZE & DURATION

Grants from this fund range between \$1,000 and \$5,000. Multi-year funding will be considered, but the grant period may not exceed three years.

SCHEDULE

Pre- Application Questionnaires Due:	Applications Due:	Decisions Will Be Made:
N/A	March 4, 2026	April 2026

*Occasionally, complex applications will require additional time to review.
Applicants will be kept informed of their proposal’s progress.*

The Bender Family Foundation

FUNDING PRIORITIES

The Bender Family Foundation works to foster, preserve and fund the arts, culture, education, history and environment of New York State’s Capital Region. Preference is given to projects in: (1) the city of Albany; and (2) the county of Albany; however, the area within a radius of no more than 30 miles measured from the site of the present New York State Capitol Building (State Street, Albany) will also be considered.

- The Foundation accepts proposals from organizations whose directors are active as volunteers, directors or donors;
- The Foundation will award challenge grants and will permit grants to be used as matching funds for other foundation grants;
- Priority is given to Albany County projects;
- The Foundation will consider requests for funding to support capital campaigns and capital expenditures;
- Grants **will not** be made to the same organization in consecutive years;
- The Foundation **does not** make grants to individuals or to support annual fund drives.

GRANT SIZE & DURATION

Grants from this fund usually range from \$5,000 to \$15,000.

- If your organization was awarded a grant in 2024, you will be eligible to apply for new Bender Family Foundation funding in 2026.
- If your organization was awarded a grant in 2025, you will be eligible to apply for new Bender Family Foundation funding in 2027.

SCHEDULE

Pre-Application Questionnaires Due:	Formal Applications Due:	Final Decisions Will Be Made:
March 11, 2026	May – June 2026*	August 2026

*Specific due date will be indicated on the formal application

Occasionally, complex applications will require additional time to review.

Applicants will be kept informed of their proposal’s progress.

The Bender Scientific Fund

FUNDING PRIORITIES

The Bender Scientific Fund was established for the exclusive purpose of making grants to support and promote discovery and development in medicine, science and technology in the Capital Region. Grants may be made to fund:

- Research in medicine, biotechnology and life sciences;
- Educational and information-sciences projects related to medicine, biotechnology and life sciences.

The Fund is especially interested in research that addresses beginning research studies and in educational projects that would promote continuing discovery and learning. To this end, we encourage smaller nonprofit organizations and schools to apply for funding for projects that promote further exploration of medicine, biotechnology and life sciences by young people.

- The Fund will not support institutional overhead, nor will it fund conferences or meetings;
- Projects involving human subjects, use of vertebrate animals, hazardous materials or recombinant DNA require special consideration;
- Funding is not routinely designated for salaries or per diems but will be considered when justified.

GRANT SIZE & DURATION

Grants from this fund usually range between \$1,000 and \$12,500. Grants period will not exceed one year.

SCHEDULE

Pre-Application Questionnaires Due:	Formal Applications Due:	Final Decisions Will Be Made:
N/A	April 15, 2026	July 2026

*Occasionally, complex applications will require additional time to review.
Applicants will be kept informed of their proposal's progress.*

The B'nai B'rith Gideon Foundation

FUNDING PRIORITIES

The B'nai B'rith Gideon Foundation was established to support rental housing and/or related social and recreational facilities for low-income elderly individuals, persons with disabilities and families of low-income residents living in rental housing in New York State's Capital Region.

ELIGIBILITY

Potential applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Applicants for funding should represent rental organizations serving low-income elderly populations, persons with disabilities and low-income families.
 - Additionally, organizations serving low-income elderly populations, persons with disabilities and low-income families who are living in rental organizations are also eligible to apply.
- The applicant organization must fit with the mission of B'nai B'rith Gideon Foundation.
- The applicant organization must be designated as a nonprofit organization by Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3).
- Grants are made to organizations, not to individuals.
- The applicant organization must be governed by an active board of directors.
- A formal audit of the organization's financial information must be conducted annually or an IRS Form 990 must be submitted.

GRANT SIZE & DURATION

Organizations may apply for up to \$25,000 in funding. Grant period will not exceed one year.

SCHEDULE

Pre-Application Questionnaires Due:	Formal Applications Due:	Final Decisions Will Be Made:
TBD	TBD	TBD

*Occasionally, complex applications will require additional time to review.
Applicants will be kept informed of their proposal's progress.*

The Niskayuna Community Foundation

FUNDING PRIORITIES

In considering a grant request, the Niskayuna Community Foundation places the highest priority on projects that address significant community issues, are result-oriented, encourage the involvement and participation of diverse and ethnic groups, demonstrate a true funding need and empower people to take control over their lives and environment.

Grants may be awarded in the following fields: health and human services, arts and culture, community development, conservation and historic preservation and recreation. Grants may also be used for capital projects, which may include equipment purchases.

To be eligible for funding, applications must meet the following requirements:

- Serve residents who live in the town or school district of Niskayuna;
- Organizations can also be sponsored by the Town of Niskayuna or the Niskayuna School District.

GRANT SIZE & DURATION

Grants made for the Competitive Grant program may not exceed \$10,000. Grant requests at or below \$2,000 may be considered under the mini-grant program. The grant period may not exceed one year in duration.

SCHEDULE

Pre- Application Questionnaires Due:	Applications Due:	Decisions Will Be Made:
N/A	April 17, 2026	June 2026

Mini-Grant Program

Policy

The general policy of the Niskayuna Community Foundation is to make grants for innovative, creative projects and to support programs that are responsive to changing community needs.

Eligibility

The Niskayuna Community Foundation will accept proposals for mini-grants of \$2,000 or less for organizations that meet the following criteria:

- Qualify under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code as a nonprofit organization OR operate under the fiscal sponsorship of an organization that does;
- Serve residents who live in the town or school district of Niskayuna;
- Grants are awarded in the following fields:
 - Arts and Culture
 - Community Development
 - Conservation and Historic Preservation
 - Education
 - Health and Human Services
 - Recreation
- **Mini-Grant requests can be submitted for consideration year-round.**

The Hortense & Louis Rubin Community Health Fund

FUNDING PRIORITIES

The Hortense and Louis Rubin Community Health Fund envisions healthy individuals, families, and communities with reduced incidence and prevalence of chronic kidney disease and related risk factors such as obesity, diabetes, and hypertension in the Greater Capital Region via:

- **Healthy Habits and Lifestyles:** such as better nutrition, regular physical activity, tobacco cessation, more sleep, less stress.
- **Strengthening Health Equity for the most vulnerable communities,** such as Black and Latino/x communities, urban and rural communities via sustainable and functioning food systems, greater access to quality health care that works for all, and secure access to essential community needs (housing, transportation, food, etc.)

In addition, the goal of the Rubin Community Health Fund committee is to meet people where they are. That includes grantmaking to organizations providing services to members of our community who are afflicted with chronic kidney disease. With this in mind, applications that **focus on home dialysis** will be given special consideration.

GRANT SIZE & DURATION

Organizations can apply for up to \$150,000 annually. Organizations may apply for multi-year funding; funding will not exceed three years.

SCHEDULE

Pre-Application Questionnaires Due:	Applications Due:	Final Decisions Will Be Made:
N/A	1/20/26	March 2026

*Occasionally, complex applications will require additional time to review.
Applicants will be kept informed of their proposal's progress.*