



Welcome to the Grant Seekers Meeting

November 9, 2011

Community Foundation of Northern Illinois

- Established as the Rockford Community Trust in 1953
 - Became the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois in 2003
 - Second Largest Community Foundation in Illinois
 - Serves a Four County Area – Boone, Ogle, Stephenson and Winnebago
 - Administers over 400 Funds and 67 Scholarships
 - Awarded over \$33 Million in Grants and Scholarships in the Past Ten Years
 - Currently Stewards \$50 Million in Assets – 86% are Permanent
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We are Full-Time Grant Makers!

- 3 full-time program officers
 - Will answer your phone calls and meet with you
 - 11 Discretionary Grant Programs
 - \$400,000 Available for Fiscal Year 2012
 - We host grant information sessions
 - We have a user-friendly website
 - Complete grant guidelines online
 - Applications – Available now!
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Thoughtful, Objective Grant Makers

- 20 Member Board of Trustees
 - Over 130 Community Advisors
 - Community Foundation Staff including 3 dedicated Program Officers
 - Conflict of Interest Policy
 - Confirmed with the National Standards of all Community Foundations
 - Transparent and Fair Determinations
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Mission- Driven Organizations

- Have a Core Strategy
 - Align Projects and Programs around a Specific Purpose
 - Are Healthy
 - Are Coherent
 - Are Efficient and Effective
 - Are Less Apt to be Duplicative
 - Attract Collaborative Partners
 - Have an Easier Time Attracting Grants and Gifts Because People Understand Who They Are
 - Are More Successful
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Ask Yourself:

- What is your organization great at doing?
- How does your organization differentiate itself from other organizations?
- How do your strengths, practices, programs and projects fit together?
- Do you spend the majority of your investment (staff, board, volunteers) on your mission?
- Does your grant request support your core mission?

Lessons Learned!

We Fund These Areas:

- Arts and Humanities
- Health & Human Services,
- Community, Economic, & Neighborhood Development
- Youth, Children, & Families
- Education
- Youth-Led Projects
- Neighborhood Resident-Led Projects
- Projects supporting the Developmentally Disabled
- Historic Preservation
- Medical Education and Research

We Fund Projects That:

- Are collaborative
 - Are preventative
 - Get to the root cause of the problem
 - Reduce duplication of services
 - Demonstrate innovative solutions
 - Demonstrate vision and good management
 - Have a plan for implementation
 - Have a plan for long range funding
 - Have other funding sources in place
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We Do Not Fund:

- Organizations that have delinquent final or interim reports
 - Annual and capital campaigns
 - Endowments
 - Individuals
 - Ongoing project support
(3 yr limit/2 yrs off)
 - Religious purposes
 - Debt reduction
 - Funds that are re-granted
 - Operational expenses that are not directly related to your proposed project
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Please Note:

- Applications **must** be consistent with grant guidelines.
 - The Community Arts and Humanities Fund is limited to nonprofit organizations that have arts and humanities as the primary focus of their missions.
 - Priority for funding will be given to non-tax supported organizations.
 - All nonprofit agencies submitting grant applications for a project involving RPS 205 must obtain written approval of the project before submitting the grant application. See Pre-Approval Form on Website.
 - **On-Line Applications and Attachments must be received by 5:00 pm on the deadline date.**
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Before You Start Your Application, Ask Yourself...

- What is the problem? What is our proposed solution?
- How does our proposed solution fit our mission?
- Will the proposed solution address the problem and make long term changes in people's lives?
- Are there other agencies working on this problem/solution? How can we work together?
- What do we need (time, money, staffing, equipment, etc.) to implement the solution?
- How will we measure our success?
- How will we share the results with other agencies?
- If this is to be a continuing program, how will we meet future funding needs?
- Why should the Foundation fund our project?

Online Applications

- **New Website! New and Improved Application!**
- You may start your application, and save and finish later.
- “Review My Application” is for your use.
- **New Spell-Check Feature! New and Improved Budget Sheet**
- Make sure to click Submit!
- On-line Applications and Hard Copy Attachments must be received by 5:00 pm on the deadline date.
- Pay Attention to the Tips – They’re there for you!
- If you are a grant-writer, you **must** use the email address of the nonprofit organization you are writing the application for.

Publicizing Your Grant

- Include News of Grant in Your Publications
 - Use the Community Foundation's Logo
 - Acknowledge your grant using Language from the Foundation
 - Community Foundation Description
 - Sample Press Release
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Partnership with CFNIL

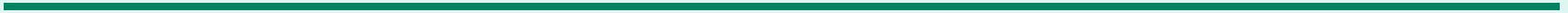
- “NO” does not mean FOREVER.
 - Keep in contact with us.
 - Use us as a resource.
 - Let us know if you change your grant.
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Additional Grant Opportunities

Anne O'Keefe
Rockford Area Arts Council

Pam Clark Reidenbach
NICNE

Questions?



Endowment
Is
Forever!

Thank you for coming today.

For grant applications,
grant guidelines
and a copy of this powerpoint
visit

www.cfnil.org
