



2019 Fund for Louisville Grants Program

Overview and Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Fund for Louisville?

The Fund for Louisville is the Community Foundation of Louisville’s largest unrestricted grantmaking fund. It is made up of 42 funds established by individual and family donors with the purpose of supporting Louisville’s ongoing needs.

Over the past five years, the Fund for Louisville, together with a CFL donor, our partner foundations, Lift a Life Foundation and the James Graham Brown Foundation, has awarded 98 capacity building grants totaling nearly \$1.7 million.

What is capacity building, and what types of projects are eligible for funding?

We believe that strong nonprofit organizations lead to more effective programs and greater community impact. Capacity building projects strengthen the effectiveness and future sustainability of nonprofits and can include but are not limited to:

- Leadership development
- Staff training
- Improvements to governance structure
- Creation of organization-wide approach to evaluation
- Improvements to financial- or data-management systems
- Creation of strategic, communication, or fundraising plans
- Technology upgrades and training
- Planning required for merger or collaboration
- Succession planning
- Creating or strengthening volunteer and/or alumni programs

For the 2019 capacity building grants, we are especially interested in supporting leadership development. Well-trained, connected, supported, and inspired leadership is important in any sector, but critical for nonprofit organizations working to strengthen the people and places in our community.

The most successful capacity building projects...	For example...
Address issues that affect the organization as a whole, not a single program.	Creation of a new strategic plan or purchase of new accounting software is considered capacity building. A request to pay a consultant to revamp or enhance a single program is not.
Come at a strategic moment for the organization, such as a leadership transition, a period of rapid growth or expansion, or significant change in a program or income stream.	An organization has several leaders who are planning to retire in 1-2 years. A capacity building grant can pay for leadership training for staff members who will assume leadership positions.
Are not intended to be a short term fix.	

[See this document](#) for a list of funded projects and vendors/consultants/software supported by

past Fund for Louisville grants:

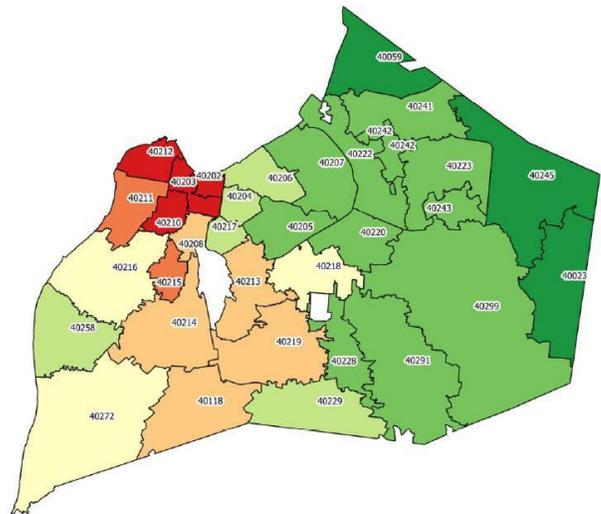
Not Considered Capacity Building *(for purposes of the Fund for Louisville Grant Program)*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a new staff position • Pay an existing staff person to do work described in her/his job description unrelated to the capacity building project • A computer lab for clients' use • Creating a new program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operating or program funds • A media campaign (for example, printing fliers, buying advertisements on radio/television, social media, etc.) • Expanding programming from one site to additional sites • A contract/temporary/permanent position to raise funds for one year
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What is the strategic focus for the 2019 capacity building grants?

As an innovator in philanthropy, we continually evaluate Louisville’s greatest challenges and opportunities, using data, research, and on-the-ground knowledge and experience to inform our grant making approaches.

Our focus for the 2019 grants is informed by the 2015 Greater Louisville Project Report, “A Focus on Poverty.” Compelling and actionable, the report highlighted 11 zip codes, shaded in red and orange on this map of Louisville, as most impacted by longstanding disinvestment.



Poverty is commonly thought of simply as lack of income. Multi-dimensional poverty acknowledges that lack of education, poor health, and few job opportunities also impact an individual’s ability to thrive.

Building on the rich history and assets of the neighborhoods in these 11 zip codes, CFL and its partners are investing to strengthen the capacity of nonprofits working in these areas.

Who can apply for a 2019 grant?

Organizations that:

- Are nonprofit, 501(c)(3) public charities in good standing, or charitable projects that are fiscally sponsored by 501(c)(3) public charities in good standing.
- Can demonstrate how their work transforms lives for residents in one or more of the 11 target ZIP codes, located primarily in the western and south central parts of our community (specifically: 40202, 40203, 40208, 40210, 40211, 40212, 40213, 40214, 40215, 40219, 40118).
- Requests a capacity building investment that will strengthen the organization’s efficiency, effectiveness, or sustainability.

Please note: Organizations that received a 2018 Fund for Louisville capacity building grant are not eligible for a 2019 grant. However, prior recipients of Fund for Louisville capacity building grants

may apply.

My organization serves beyond the target zip codes (it serves statewide, nationwide, etc.). Would we qualify?

To qualify, the organization does not have to be located in one of the target ZIP codes. But the most competitive applicants will be those that can clearly describe how the organization is transforming lives in one or more of the 11 target ZIP codes.

Be prepared to share the name(s) of neighborhoods served, number of people served, the type of program delivered, and frequency of service in those ZIP codes. The review committee will evaluate the breadth/depth of service in the target zip codes among all applicants, in addition to the strength of the capacity building project.

Capacity Building Grant Specifics

- Grants may be requested for any amount, up to \$20,000.
- Grant request must make up 50%+ of the total capacity building project budget.
- Up to \$450,000 available.
- CFL will seek to balance grants to larger and smaller nonprofits (based on annual revenue of applicants submitting Letters of Intent).
- Grants will be made Dec. 2018 and may be expended from Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2019.
- 2018 capacity building grant recipients may not apply for a 2019 grant; past grantees and all other nonprofits that qualify may apply.
- The application process for a 2019 capacity building grant begins with a Letter of Intent available on our grant website starting June 25, 2018.
- A full application will be requested from selected submissions in mid-August, and grant recipients will be announced in mid-December 2018.
- The Foundation will fully fund selected grant requests (it will not provide partial awards).

How can I apply?

The online application process begins with a Letter of Intent, which will be posted online on June 25, 2018 and remain open until July 30, 2018 at 5:00 PM. After review, selected organizations will be asked to submit a full application. Grantees will be selected and announced in December 2018 for capacity building projects to begin in January 2019.

Grant Application Website: In June 2019, CFL is moving its online grant applications to a new technology platform. Stay tuned for details.

How many grants will be awarded?

The Community Foundation expects to award up to \$450,000 in 2019 capacity building grants, which is approximately 26 grants.

What is the timeline?

- **June 25, 2018:** Letter of Intent form becomes available on the CFL grant website (the first step in the application process)
- **July 30, 2018:** Letter of Intent forms are due at 5:00 PM
- **August 13, 2018:** All organizations that received a letter of intent will receive an update on their status. Selected organizations will be asked to submit a full application

- **September 21, 2018:** Applications due at 5:00 PM
- **December 12, 2018:** CFL's Board of Directors meets to review and approve 2019 Fund for Louisville grantees
- **January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019:** Grantees complete their capacity building projects, submitting a six month progress report in July 2019 and a final project and budget report in January 2020.

What expenses are allowed? What expenses are not allowed?

Capacity building grants may pay for the costs associated with professional development and staff training (conference/training fees, travel, lodging, food, etc.), costs of consulting services, hardware, software, website upgrades, and reasonable costs for staff time directly in support of the capacity building project's objectives.

Grants may not be used to pay debt or expenses incurred prior to the grant award date. Grants may not fund a staff person solely to complete duties described in her/his job description. For example, the grant may not be used to pay an individual to fundraise for the organization (however, the grant may be used to create a fundraising strategy).

How are grantees selected?

A grant review committee, comprised of members from the Community Foundation's Board of Directors, staff, partner foundations, and community volunteers will be responsible for evaluating applications and recommending grantees to the Foundation's Board of Directors. The review committee will seek to support as many organizations as possible with the funds available that:

- Are clearly transforming lives in one or more of the 11 target ZIP codes.
- Have a capacity building need that is timely, well planned, and will have impact that is able to be measured or recognized by the organization.

My organization is not eligible for a 2019 capacity building grant. Does the Foundation offer other competitive grant opportunities?

The Community Foundation supports Louisville's nonprofit community in many different ways, including an annual online giving day called "Give for Good Louisville;" by sharing information about grant opportunities offered by giving circles and other local organizations; and, convening nonprofits for regular, free "Coffee and Conversation" events to network and learn from one another.

The Foundation utilizes most funds available to support capacity building grants each year, but will award any funds remaining in a separate, "Field of Interest" grant process in January of each year.