

FAQ

What is discretionary granting?

The Community Foundation's grants are made in two ways depending on the type of fund making the grant. Donor advised and agency funds match donor interests to specific charities or causes. Discretionary funds are those that the Foundation's board may direct. The Foundation uses our Vital Community Grants program as the means to grant its discretionary funds.

What is participatory grantmaking?

Participatory grantmaking is a decision making process that puts those benefiting from the grants at its heart. It invites those who are most knowledgeable and affected by an issue to identify priorities and direct the available funds. For the Community Foundation, it is an expression of our values of trust, inclusivity, collaboration, and vitality, and is based on the principle of "nothing about us without us".

What does marginalized mean?

In every community, there are people who are more likely to experience barriers to wellbeing because of the ways our society, economy and politics are set up. Marginalization is complex, and it's not something that can be simplified into one single 'label'. There is a solid and growing body of evidence that supports the lived experience of so many people, which tells us unequivocally that people who experience social, political and economic marginalization are significantly more likely to be impacted by COVID-19, to experience poverty, and to be vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

What do we mean by organizations led-by, serving and focused-on marginalized communities?

Purpose

Does the organization exist to support or benefit people from a particular marginalized community?

Programs

Are programs and services designed with the agency of people from a marginalized community in mind, and delivered by people with lived experience in that community?

Leadership

Do the majority of the organization's leaders (board members and paid staff in management positions) identify as members of this particular marginalized community?



FAQ

What do you mean by “systems of oppression”?

When we’re talking about systems of oppression, we mean the combination of prejudice and institutional power which creates policies and behaviours that work in favour of some groups and discriminate against others. They include racism and white-supremacy, colonialism, classism, sexism and misogyny, homophobia, transphobia, ageism, xenophobia and ableism. People are marginalized by these because of their identity or experiences

Does this focus on equity mean we won’t fund other organizations?

The Community Foundation will continue to fund a broad range of organizations in our community. As always, the Foundation will help local donors direct their giving to causes and organizations that matter to them. Through donor advised and agency funds, grants will continue to support the arts, the environment, etc. In 2021, Vital Community Grants will represent about ten percent of the Foundation’s total grants.

Where does the grant money come from for Vital Community Grants?

The Community Foundation’s assets are created by donations from people in the community who set up or contribute to “funds”. These funds are invested and the earnings are used to provide a stream of revenue for granting to local charities. At least eight of these funds grant at the discretion of the Foundation’s board through the Vital Community Grants program. Donations received to the COVID-19 Community Response Fund are also directed to this grant program. [Donations can be made online through our website.](#)