

2025 Grant Application Guidelines



*Heritage
Fund*

Heritage Fund accepts competitive applications for Community Fund grants four times each year. Applications are due by **4:30 p.m. on March 1, June 1, September 1 and December 1**. Grant awards are announced approximately 12 weeks after each deadline.

NEW IN 2024: GRANT LIFECYCLE MANAGER

Beginning Jan. 1, 2024, all grant applications will only be accepted online through Heritage Fund's website. Grant applicant training and open office hours for questions will be held upon request. To sign up for a GLM training, please register on our website.

APPLYING FOR A GRANT

Grant seekers are strongly encouraged to contact Heritage Fund's Director of Community Impact to discuss your grant proposal prior to submitting a formal application.

Once you have discussed your proposal with program staff, you will need to complete and submit a letter of intent and online application. Access to letters of intent and the application portal can be found on our website.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact program staff by calling 812-376-7772; visiting us at 538 Franklin Street, Columbus, IN 47201; or on our website: heritagefundbc.org

ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES*

Heritage Fund's Statement on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

The Heritage Fund commits to establishing a community that values diversity, equity, and inclusion. We believe that our differences are a source of strength and that understanding, appreciating, and celebrating our differences will ensure a stronger and healthier community. Heritage Fund invites our donors, our community partners, and our stakeholders to invest in creating a forward-thinking community that is welcoming, respectful, and actively engaged in racial and cultural equity.

The Geographic Area We Serve

Bartholomew County

Primary Grantmaking Areas of Interest

- Youth Development
- Arts, Culture, Architecture and Design
- Downtown Vibrancy

Secondary Grantmaking Areas of Interest

- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion*
- Leadership Development
- Responsive Community Needs

The Community Foundation favors awarding grants that:

- Create or enhance innovative approaches to meet community needs and opportunities
- Create or enhance collaborations with other organizations
- Reach a broad segment of the community
- Stimulate and encourage additional funding
- Promote cooperation and avoid duplication of services
- Have a plan for ongoing sustainability of the effort past the granting period

The Community Foundation places low priority on the following, which are unlikely to receive funding:

- Projects where Heritage Fund is the sole funder
- Reduction of debt (including payment for items purchased prior to grant approval)
- Programs that fall more appropriately under government funding
- Requests from organizations that have an open Community Funds grant file (i.e., a balance remaining on a previous grant or an unfiled final report)

The Community Foundation will NOT consider grants for:

- Ongoing operational expenses or unexpected gaps in operational budgets
- Individuals
- Political activities or those designated to influence legislation
- Individual school needs, unless approved in writing by the school administration
- National and/or state organizations (unless the monies are to be used solely to benefit citizens of Bartholomew County)
- Faith-based organizations unless the project in question is not religious in nature, is not restricted based on faith, and involves no faith-based proselytizing.

**These guidelines are for Heritage Fund's Community Fund (non-designated), from which competitive grants are awarded. Please contact us for information on other fund types.*