2024 Responsive Grantmaking Process

The Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland is accepting grant proposals in 2024 to support organizations in Cuyahoga County that advance its mission to increase the community's ability to improve the lives of people living in poverty. Proposals must reflect at least one of the following areas that the foundation has historically prioritized:

1) Ministries of Catholic sisters in the Diocese of Cleveland
2) Meeting basic needs in the community
3) Systemic approaches to address poverty

Grant Requests and Eligibility Requirements

Eligible organizations:
- Applicants must have tax-exempt status as nonprofit organizations, as identified by the Internal Revenue Code, or have a fiscal agent with tax-exempt status.
- Grants are not made to individuals.
- Funding will be prioritized for organizations with budgets of $3 million or below.
- Organization is located in and primarily serves Cuyahoga County, with the exception of ministries of Catholic sisters, which may serve the Diocese of Cleveland.
- Organizations that have received a previous grant must be up to date on their final reporting.

Use of funds: Funds may be used for program expenses, planning, operations, training, technology needs, salary support and capacity-building. Grants will not support endowments, annual appeals, membership drives, debt retirement, individual scholarships, or capital expenses.

Use of funds timeline: The timeline for use of funds is up to one year (July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025).

Grant amount: Grant requests of $15,000 or less will be considered. This is a competitive grant process. Approximately 25 total grants could be awarded.

Funding Priorities

Applicants must fall within at least one of the following priorities (no one priority is more important than the others):

1. **Ministries of Catholic Sisters:** In recognition of the foundation's long-time commitment to supporting Catholic Sisters as leaders in service, social justice, and spirituality, through the Saint Ann Legacy Grant Program, applications will be considered from organizations or projects that are led by a sister(s), currently transitioning from a sister in leadership, or employ a sister(s). These organizations must meet the above eligibility requirements and provide direct assistance to, spiritual support to, advocate for, or educate the community about those most in need.

2. **Meeting Basic Needs in the Community:** In recognition of the foundation's long-time commitment to supporting organizations to meet the basic needs of the community through the Good Samaritan Grant Program, applications will be considered from organizations providing basic needs to the community. Basic needs are primarily defined as food, clothing, emergency shelter and/or housing supports, and transportation to access services. We also recognize the basic needs of utilities, hygiene products, identification, stipends, short-term medications and/or medical supplies, internet access, and cash assistance.

3. **Systemic Approaches to Address Poverty:** In recognition of the foundation's commitment to addressing the root causes of poverty, applications will be considered to support organizations advancing systemic approaches to address poverty. Such approaches may address policies, structures, practices, or otherwise have proof of or potential to fundamentally change the trajectory and create opportunities for individuals, families or communities experiencing poverty.

Key Dates

- **LOI Opens:** February 9, 2024
- **LOI Deadline:** March 1, 2024
- **Notification of invitation to apply:** March 22, 2024
- **Grant Deadline:** April 26, 2024, at 4:59 p.m.
- **Announcement of Grant Awards**: Late June 2024

To Submit a Letter of Intent and Application:
Our grants management system is online. To successfully submit a Letter of Intent and application, please follow the directives listed below:
- The system may be accessed through the Grantmaking page on the Foundation's website (socfcleveland.org) or directly through this link: https://www.grantinterface.com/Common/LogOn.aspx?eqs=aBcdzT88cioJC9kFX35lMH8VGrOo_oai0.
- If your organization has not applied to the foundation in previous years, you will need to set up an account for your organization.
- If you are not sure whether your organization has an account, or you do not know your username and/or password, do not create a new account. Please contact Ursula Craig at ucraig@socfcleveland.org.
- If your Letter of Intent is approved and you are invited to submit an application, you will receive an email with an application code. After logging in, enter the application code to access the full application form.

Questions?
For technical assistance for LOI/application submission, please contact:
Ursula Craig, grants and operations manager at ucraig@socfcleveland.org