



Guidelines for Grant Requests

Foundation resources are allocated with priority given to requests that benefit low- and moderate-income individuals and communities. The Foundation will generally seek applications from organizations in operation a minimum of three years. The Foundation will give primary consideration to non-profit organizations in those New Jersey communities in which Columbia Bank operates. Foundation resources are allocated primarily within the following areas:

- 1. Affordable Housing Programs:** Programs that support affordable housing for low- to moderate-income individuals and communities.
- 2. Community Investment and Economic Development Programs:** Economic development projects that improve quality of life; sustained economic development, and support job skills for low- and moderate-income individuals and communities; facilities that promote community development programs.
- 3. Financial Literacy and Education:** Programs that enrich a child's educational opportunities, early childhood development, and special education programs, with preferences given to those programs targeting low- and moderate-income persons; educational programs designed to meet the housing needs of those same communities including but not limited to, Habitat for Humanity, local housing coalitions, and housing crisis programs. Nonprofit organizations providing home-ownership counseling, home maintenance, and other financial services education.
- 4. Health and Human Services:** Programs that revitalize or stabilize low- and moderate-income areas and/or community services targeted to low- and moderate-income persons; programs that support initiatives and sustain access to quality health care for individuals and families.
- 5. Community Sponsored Events**
- 6. Food Pantries**
- 7. The Arts**

Ineligible Categories for Funding

- Requests to advance or facilitate the religious mission or doctrine of an organization
- Private Foundations
- Political and labor organizations
- Political causes, candidates, or organizations whose primary purpose is to influence legislation
- Contributions to individuals, including those seeking scholarships or fellowship assistance
- Support of national health organizations (or their local affiliates) or research/disease advocacy groups
- General support for medical centers/hospitals
- Fraternal or civic organizations, if the request is over \$7,500 and designated to fund operating or working capital budget needs of the organization
- Travel-related events, including student field trips or tours
- Programs related to sports/athletic programs
- Multiple-year commitments are considered but are limited