



WYOMING  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

# WYCF Grant Application





# COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS

- **Grantmaking**, public nonprofit 501(c)(3) orgs
  - Governed by **local boards** reflecting the community
- Have a **broad mission** to meet the needs of communities
- Serve **geographically defined** areas – a city, state or region
- **Build endowments**, an important element of sustainability





# WYOMING COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

- Established in 1989
- Based in Laramie with regional staff in Casper, Lander, Riverton, & Sheridan
- Mission: Connecting People Who Care with Causes That Matter to Build a Better Wyoming
  - Funding priority: meeting needs of Wyoming communities
    - \$100 million granted since inception
    - Geographic focus: state of Wyoming
  - Statewide governing board + six area local boards



# WYCF PRIORITY FUNDS







## WYCF Funds

- ~400 Funds with \$200M in assets
  - Designated Agency Endowment Funds
  - Donor Advised Funds
  - Donor Designated Endowed Funds
  - Geographic and Field of Interest Funds
  - Unrestricted Funds
  - Scholarship Funds





# WYCF COMPETITIVE GRANT CYCLES



- Two Cycles per year – Summer and Winter
- 100-140 Applications Submitted
- **Average Grant - \$5,000-\$10,000**
- Local Board & Committee Funds
  - Nine areas of the state
  - Granting ranges from \$30,000 - \$200,000/cycle
  - Recommended locally and approved by statewide board
- Statewide Board
  - 50-60 applications
  - \$150,000-\$200,000/grant cycle
  - Recommended and approved by statewide board





# LOCAL BOARDS & ADVISORY COMMITTEE GIVING

Committee	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Casper Local Board	\$297,000	\$368,370	\$333,150	\$397,394	\$409,830	\$340,400	\$389,000
Dubois-Crowheart Local Board	\$27,000	\$46,150	\$54,550	\$68,550	\$86,000	\$36,713	\$74,300
Evanston Local Board	\$46,000	\$31,850	\$45,800	\$40,453	\$36,250	\$43,125	\$57,613
Rock Springs Local Board	\$29,000	\$44,067	\$33,834	\$52,500	\$74,885	\$56,500	\$106,813
Sheridan-Johnson Local Board	\$47,000	\$71,305	\$68,075	\$105,350	\$90,907	\$98,514	\$75,275
Sublette Local Board	\$60,000	\$77,428	\$70,320	\$76,644	\$119,800	\$85,135	\$76,567
Kemmerer Fund (Winter)	\$61,000	\$52,070	\$47,092	\$80,953	\$107,350	\$115,660	\$71,134
Sykes Fund (Southern Big Horn Cty.)	\$70,000	\$71,467	\$61,910	\$64,000	\$61,590	\$60,958	\$45,362
Glyda May Fund (Platte Cty.)	-	\$2,000	-	\$4,000	-	\$18,500	\$29,501
Hazel Patterson (Summer - Johnson Cty.)	\$42,000	\$40,802	\$41,726	\$43,369	\$43,737	\$45,706	\$46,957
McMurry Libraries Fund	\$33,000	\$74,840	\$15,000	\$16,540	\$38,026	\$99,003	\$23,600

# QUESTIONS?





# WRITING A QUALITY PROPOSAL





# GRANTWRITING PROCESS

## Identifying Prospects

Focus on Your Needs, not  
Funder Parameters  
Consider Funder Goals  
Eligibility Requirements

## Getting in the Door

Do Your Research  
Visit Websites  
Ask Good Questions  
Make the Contact

## Build the Narrative – Story Telling

What is Your Why?  
Inspiration vs. Desperation  
Problem → Solution → Plan  
→ Ask

## Proposal Tips

Tailor your Proposal  
Ask for Feedback  
Follow Instructions  
Be Hopeful, not Hyperbolic

## Follow Up

If Approved, Say Thanks!  
If Declined, Ask for Feedback



# GRANT RESOURCES

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Grantstation.com

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FoundationCenter.org

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Grants.gov

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Wyoming Nonprofit Network

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Local Foundation Websites

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Local Businesses/Banks





# WYCF APPLICATION – ELIGIBILITY



- **Are You Eligible?**
  - Nonprofit organizations exempt from federal taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
  - On occasion, to other exempt orgs and public agencies with 'charitable purpose.'
  - Grants are not made to individuals or to political campaigns.
  - Submitted final report for previous WYCF grant.
- **What Is Your Purpose?**
  - Program support
  - Equipment purchase
  - General operating
  - Low priority: Capital campaigns, annual campaigns, debt retirement, block grants



# Project Narrative

Share the need in your community and how this grant would help you meet that need.

- Project Summary – 50 words
- Project Description
  - Addresses community need
  - Clear and compelling
  - Data, if applicable
- Expected Outcomes
- Project Budget Narrative





# Collaboration

With other partners backing your work, funders have greater confidence that the work will be successful.

- Programmatic Collaboration
  - Address duplication of services
  - Cooperation vs. competition
- Funding Collaboration
  - Secured and requested funding
  - Leverage/match information
  - Discuss the long-term financial viability of the program



# Attachments

Funders like  
information.

- Board Member List
- Project Budget (Not required for general operating requests)
- Organization Budget
- FYE Income Statement (P&L)
- FYE Balance Statement





# QUESTIONS?





# WHEN WILL YOU HEAR BACK?



Cycle	Deadline	Notification
Summer	June 15	September 15
Winter	December 15	March 15

## Review Stages

- Charitable status/application completion check
  - Final report submission
    - Staff evaluations
- Local board/committee evaluations
  - Follow-up questions
- Statewide board meeting - approval



# WYCF STAFF EVALUATIONS

- Does this meet a community need?
- Will a grant strengthen the capacity of the organization to do its work?
- Can they leverage dollars received and do they have multiple sources of funding?
- Are they collaborating to enhance services and to avoid duplication of services?





- Limited funding available, or the proposal doesn't match the funder's objectives.
- The proposal doesn't clearly identify a community need or objectives of the project are vague.
- The program or project doesn't seem sustainable.
- The estimated costs for the proposal are inaccurate or the budget doesn't match the narrative.
- The proposal was hastily assembled (lack of detail and typographical and grammatical errors).
- The proposal is full of buzzwords, clichés, jargon and acronyms.
- The writer ignores instructions.

## TOP 7 REASONS FOR A DECLINE



# WHAT'S NEXT?

- **Next Deadline: June 15th**
- Do your research
  - Read the website
  - Understand the timelines
  - Contact programs staff with questions or clarifications
- Applications may receive full funding, partial funding or may be denied
- If awarded, submit your final report within one year





# QUESTIONS?







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