



Lancaster County
*Community
Foundation*

Lancaster County Community Foundation Innovation Fund FAQ

What is the Innovation Fund?

In 2010, the Community Foundation introduced a new fund called the “Innovation Fund.” This fund provides an opportunity for small, grassroots and volunteer run organizations to apply for funding for innovative ideas that positively impact our community. The goal of the Innovation Fund is positive change – supporting a new approach, program, or service that enhances our community on a broad community level.

What do you mean by innovative?

Innovation to us means that there is a new approach to a long-standing problem. The focus of the fund is on creating unique solutions to problems, issues or community needs, and identifying opportunities that have a broad impact.

What sorts of projects might you fund from the Innovation Fund?

The Community Foundation encourages new and innovative ideas in Lancaster County. This could be a pilot project or implementation of an already tested idea. This fund often results in an investment that is not directly related to any specific fund or Foundation priority.

We have included examples below of programs that we see as innovative. While these are strictly examples and may not apply to the needs of residents in Lancaster County, we hope they provide you with some projects that fit in with our view of innovation:

Creating new approaches to tolerance and respect through free publishing and distribution of documentary films, books, lesson plans and other materials aimed at building respect for all people regardless of differences.

- Using credit as a cost effective weapon and catalyst to fight poverty by inviting participation of the poor who have been kept outside the banking orbit.
- Creating a local award system to recognize high school students for outstanding achievement in music and play productions, ultimately supporting youth in their artistic endeavors both now and in the future.

If I am interested, who should I contact? This fund is a part of our 2010 competitive grant cycle. We have 3 grant deadlines in March, July, and September. If this is a fund you might be interested in, we encourage you to talk to us before you apply. Please contact Dave Koser, Program Associate, by phone at 397-1629 or by e-mail at David@LancasterCountyFoundation.org