

2025 Passion Grants

Thanks to visionary donors over time, the community's endowment converts passion into impact throughout Lancaster County.

This year, **Passion Grants** will activate more than \$200,000 in support of a broad range of impact areas including human services, the environment, human rights & inclusion, the arts, early child development, and projects in Eastern Lancaster County.

Grants range from **\$7,500 – \$36,400**.

Virtual Office Hours

Questions? Join the Programs Team for a Virtual Office Hour session.

March 26, 10:00 – 11:00 am → [Register Here](#)

April 16, 10:00 – 11:00 am → [Register Here](#)

Eligibility Requirements

Applicant organization must:

- Serve Lancaster County residents without discrimination.
- Have current 501(c)(3) designation from the IRS.
- Be registered with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Charitable Organizations unless otherwise exempt per the Institutions of Purely Public Charity Act.
- Complete IRS Form 990 annually.
- Have an annual audit or a financial review by an independent CPA within the last 12 months.
- Be in good standing with all existing awards and contracts with the Lancaster County Community Foundation.
- Provide organizational Non-Discrimination Policy meeting all federal requirements as it applies to your type of organization ([FAQs](#)).
- Be aware of the Community Foundation's [Anti-Hate Policy](#).

Please note the Community Foundation's competitive grants will not typically fund:

- Creation of a new organization
- Schools
- Capital campaigns/capital costs

- Political campaigns
- Expenses incurred before the grant is awarded
- Cemetery associations
- Religious causes that further a specific belief/agenda

Visit our website for additional information about eligibility: [Eligibility Requirements](#)

Timeline

- **Wednesday, March 12** – Grant application portal opens.
- **Friday, April 11** – Deadline to submit LOI to receive staff feedback (optional).
- **Tuesday, April 18** – Deadline to submit draft application to receive staff feedback (optional).
- **Friday, May 9, 11:59 pm** – Final deadline to submit LOI.
- **Friday, May 16, 11:59 pm** – Final deadline to submit full application.
- **Friday, July 23** – Award notifications issued. Grant funding period begins.
- **July 23, 2025 – July 23, 2026** – Duration of grant funding period.
- **Tuesday, September 30, 2026** – Grant completion report due.

Application Process

1. Submit Letter of Intent (LOI) on our online grant portal at LancFound.org/grants. You will be asked to submit basic organizational information and a brief description of your proposed project.
2. After your LOI is approved, you will be given access to the full grant application through the same portal.
3. Complete your full application by the final deadline.
4. Draft applications are eligible for staff review and feedback before final submission.

Application Questions

- **Vision**
 - What is your vision for how this project will change the community? (1,500 characters)
- **Equity & Inclusion**
 - Describe your organizational or project-level intentions to create practices of JEDI (justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion) to advance opportunities and

minimize harm to individuals and/or communities. If applicable, how does this project address issues identified in [Lancaster's Equity Profile](#)? (1,500 characters)

- **Implementation Plan**
 - Outline the expected timeline of your project, including anticipated milestones. (1,000 characters)
 - Outline how grant funds will be used. (1,000 characters)
- **Collaboration**
 - How is your project supporting collaboration in our community? Mention potential project partners. (1,500 characters)
- **Goals & Achievements**
 - What are your project goals? (1,000 characters)
 - How will you evaluate your achievements? (1,000 characters)

Evaluation Criteria

Community grant reviewers will use the following questions to evaluate and score applications:

- **Vision** – To what extent does the response demonstrate a vision for change in our community?
- **Equity & Inclusion** – To what extent does the response demonstrate intentional practices of JEDI (justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion), to advance opportunities, and minimize harm to individuals and communities, at the organizational or project level?
- **Implementation Plan** – To what extent does the response outline an effective plan for project implementation?
- **Collaboration** - To what extent does the response include collaboration with community partners and initiatives?
- **Goals & Achievements** - To what extent does the response outline and evaluate attainable and impactful goals?

Passion Grant Descriptions

- **Ada F. Harr Fund** (\$10,000 - \$32,000): For home health or custodial care for people impacted by illness or disability.

- **Anne C. & W. Franklin Ressler Fund** (\$10,000 - \$29,000): For community projects based in Eastern Lancaster County. Specifically Eastern Lancaster County (ELANCO), Pequea Valley, and Conestoga Valley School Districts.
- **Better Lancaster Fund** (\$10,000 - \$25,000): Supports early childhood development from birth to age five.
- **Lancaster Environmental Fund** (\$10,000 - \$32,400): Supports environmental protection, conservation, and education.
- **Patrick Kenney, Jr. Memorial Education Fund & K.L. Shirk Memorial Fund** (\$7,500 - \$15,000): Supports programs that fight hate and bigotry while promoting social justice.
- **Performing Arts Funds** (\$10,000 - \$36,400): Funding from the Sam and Verda Taylor Fund and the Elizabeth and Alvin Lewis Fund supports the performing arts.
- **Visual Arts Funds** (\$10,000 - \$36,400): Funding from the Florence Starr Taylor Fund, Elizabeth and Alvin Lewis Fund, Eloise C. Aurand Fund, and Lancaster Arts & Culture Fund supports the visual arts.

Additional Opportunities

- **John J. Snyder, Jr. Fund** (\$20,000 - \$114,600): Supports the restoration, maintenance, and repair of historical structures in Lancaster and Cumberland counties. Available through a separate application. [Learn more here.](#)
- **Katherine K. Gaeth Fund**: Dollars from this fund now supplement grants offered by the Lancaster County Homelessness Coalition through its Homelessness Services Joint Funding program. [Learn more here.](#)

Community Foundation Staff Contacts



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