

GUIDELINES FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS

Grant applications should be submitted through our online submission process, Gifts and Grants Online.

DECISIONS WILL BE BASED ON THE EXTENT TO WHICH CAPITAL GRANT REQUESTS MEET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA.

- The project is for the purpose of construction, renovation, refurbishment or purchase of buildings; acquisition of land; or creation or improvement of public spaces.
- The project is central to the mission of the applicant organization and likely to have a long-term effect on the organization's continued success.
- The applicant organization demonstrates financial stability; stable or increasing demand for services; effective board, administrative and program leadership; and a track record that demonstrates the ability to sustain quality programs and services.
- The project helps to meet a compelling community need.
- The project represents an opportunity for broad, demonstrable community benefit (e.g., has high impact on stimulation of other development in the surrounding area, has a positive impact on more than one organization, and/or involves the anchor institution for a neighborhood).
- The project is for a new building at a significant level of architectural design or restores a building of significant historical value. The project incorporates green building design as defined by the US Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program, with new construction meeting a minimum level of LEED Silver and renovations meeting a minimum level of LEED Certified.
- In instances where the applicant organization believes LEED standards are not appropriate, the applicant must explain why and demonstrate how the project will meet comparable green building design standards.
- The applicant organization has a plan in place to address increased costs associated with maintenance and utility.
- At least 50 percent of the total campaign goal has been reached before submission to The Cleveland Foundation.

For additional information about LEED certification, visit www.usgbc.org. More information on The Cleveland Foundation's green building policy can be found in the Grantee Tool Kit under the Grantmaking section of The Foundation's website.

Grantseekers should be aware that, by policy, the Foundation does not fund capital projects for hospitals, nursing homes or institutions of higher education.