Montgomery County Community Foundation
2026 Grant Guidelines
Unrestricted and Field of Interest Funds

MISSION

The Montgomery County Community Foundation (MCCF) builds bridges to support the future of Montgomery County.

The MCCF Board of Directors strives to understand the needs in the community so that grant funds can leverage the greatest good. Through Nonprofit Listening Sessions and Community Chats information is gathered and processed. In 2019, Early Childhood Education emerged as a top concern and since then, has been identified as a top strategic initiative. The Montgomery County Early Childhood Coalition exists to strengthen local programs in five areas: Increase Community and Parent Education, Improve Accessibility, Increase Program Quality, Improve Affordability, and Strengthen Program Supports. One of many strategies in achieving these goals is a free Professional Learning Series. All early learning providers are encouraged to participate as a means of professional and program growth.

In 2021 mental health was identified as another high priority. We will look with special interest at proposals that address these needs. However, we continue to welcome requests in all areas of our grantmaking.

GRANTMAKING AREAS OF INTEREST

Art & Culture - Community Development - Education
Historical - Health - Human Services - Youth
Early Childhood Education

ELIGIBILITY

Grant applications will be accepted from any new or existing nonprofit organization in Montgomery County. These organizations must be a tax-exempt organization whose purposes are described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code. Grant applications will also be accepted from local governmental entities, such as the three Montgomery County school corporations for charitable purposes. If an organization has received funding from MCCF in the past, all post-grant reporting requirements must be current (not past due) before an organization is eligible to submit a new request.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

The online application platform is accessed at www. mccf-in.org. Under the "Grants" tab, click "Application Process." After reading through the steps, the various grant application links are listed at the bottom of the page. Log into (or create) your online account to access the application form. Schedule an appointment to discuss your proposal with the Grants & Community Relations Director.

IMPORTANT: Late applications will not be accepted, regardless of the reason (computer problems, power outages, Internet connectivity issues etc.) so plan to fill in and "SUBMIT" the application well in advance of the deadline. If you're "in progress" at the deadline, you will be locked out of the application.

GRANT POLICIES

MCCF will consider all requests fairly and impartially. Grants will ordinarily be made for one (1) year only. An organization must spend all grant funds as described in the grant proposal. Unused funds must be returned within one (1) year unless an extension is requested in writing and approved by MCCF.

A strong proposal will have several or all of the following characteristics:

- Include an estimation of the number of people in Montgomery County who will benefit from this project or program.
- Reach a broad segment of the community.
- Show initiative and results by the organization to raise funds toward the project or program.
- Improve the ability of organizations to serve the community over the long term.
- Address a community problem or special project of some significance for which funding is needed and the funding is not covered by the regular budget.
- Present an innovative and practical approach to solve a community problem or project.
- Two bids are encouraged for all proposals and are required for those $10,000 and over.
- Set forth a work plan that shows the ability to achieve the project's goal.
- Identify the sources of possible future funding if the project is to be an ongoing one.
- Give evidence of the qualifications and stability of the organization applying.
- Include projects or programs that are not normally expected to be funded by government entities.
- Promote cooperation and avoid duplication of efforts.
- Requests involving partnerships are encouraged to include letters of support from those partners affirming the relationship.

Generally, MCCF will not support the following from unrestricted and field of interest funds:

- Grants to individuals (other than scholarships).
- Programs that are religious or sectarian in nature. Proposals from religious groups will be considered when the program is open to the entire community and is not designed to teach or promote a particular religion.
- Parades, festivals, athletics, sporting events, or sponsorships
- Endowment funds or other foundations.
- Multiple grants to a single organization in a calendar year.
- Any propaganda, political or otherwise, attempting to influence legislation or intervene in any political affairs or campaigns.
- An organization's past debts or existing obligations.
- Post-event or after-the-fact situations.

OPERATING SUPPORT

Historically, MCCF has not placed the highest priority on requests for operating expenses. Factors the board will take into consideration for operating support are:

1. Is the request for the support of a program that is key to the nonprofits mission?

2. The Grantees Track Record – does the nonprofit have a track record of success and impact on its constituency or target population?

3. Leadership and Readiness – are staff and board leaders demonstrating smart planning and accountability?

APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS

The Grants Committee will review all applications and in some cases, may make site visits. The committee makes recommendations to the MCCF Board of Directors who are responsible for making the final decision regarding grant awards.

Grant proposals will be reviewed using the following criteria:

• The appropriateness for MCCF to make this grant or are there more compatible funding sources?
• The ability of MCCF to fund the project or program.
• The number of people who will benefit from or be served by the project.
• The extent to which the proposal addresses the root cause of a problem and "changes lives." The geographic area served.
• The extent to which the proposal addresses an innovative or practical approach to address a community need.
• The extent to which the project encourages cooperation and/or collaboration between organizations.
• The extent to which the project may represent a duplication of services provided by other organizations.
• The extent to which the project looks to the future and/or demonstrates a lasting impact on the community.
• The financial stability (historically) of the organization submitting the application and whether or not there are financial controls in place to ensure that the funds will be effectively utilized.
• The extent to which the plan submitted demonstrates adequate avenues for future funding.
• The extent to which the grant, if awarded, may be leveraged for additional funding.
• The ability of the organization to obtain additional funding, if necessary.
• The extent to which the grantee may develop challenge or matching grant programs.

Early Childhood Applicants:
The Montgomery County Early Childhood Coalition (MCECC) exists to strengthen local programs in five areas: Increase Community and Parent Education, Improve Accessibility, Increase Program Quality, Improve Affordability, and Strengthen Program Supports.

One of many strategies in achieving these goals is the free MCECC Professional Development Series. All early learning providers are encouraged to participate as a means of professional and program growth. Programs participating in or pursuing Indiana's Child Care Quality Rating and Improvement System, Paths to QUALITY ™ are viewed more favorably.

2026 Grants Due Dates

	Applications Due by 5 PM	Commmittee Review	MCCF Board Review
SPRING	Thursday, April 9	Thursday, April 30	Monday May 18
FALL	Monday October 5	Monday November 2	Monday November 16