

Unrestricted Grantmaking Guidelines - JACKSON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

1) CAPITAL FUNDING

Unless linked to a valuable programmatic or quality of life enhancing effort, the construction, purchase of buildings, or other capital investments, in and of themselves, rarely solve community problems or maximize community opportunities. In deciding whether or not to fund a capital grant request, JCF will evaluate the link between the capital request and programmatic or quality of life enhancing efforts. Of equal importance to us is whether or not there is a realistic, written plan for maintaining the physical facility and sustaining the related programmatic or quality of life enhancing efforts.

As a matter of policy, JCF will consider applications for capital grants only if they protect current programs, implement new ones, or improve the quality of life of the community.

2) DEBT RETIREMENT

JCF encourages the development of strong, fiscally responsible, self-sustaining not-for-profit organizations. Investing in organizations with outstanding debt is inconsistent with this stance.

As a matter of policy, JCF does not provide grants for debt retirement.

3) SPONSORSHIP OF EVENTS

JCF focuses grantmaking dollars according to our Mission and Beliefs, our Pledge to the Community, and our Community Investment Priorities. We support proposals that help our community's nonprofits develop evidence-based programs that solve community problems that are comprehensive, community-wide and focus on prevention, targeting root causes.

As a matter of policy, JCF does not provide grants for the sponsorship of fundraising events.

4) GRANTS TO OTHER ENDOWMENTS

Serving the community as a community endowment builder is one of the fundamental ways in which JCF improves the quality of life in greater Jackson. We believe the Foundation is the best place to invest endowed dollars for the good of the community. We are able to meet the needs of the full range of donors, whether their charitable interests are general or specific and can offer sophisticated investment management as well as other benefits associated with the economies of scale afforded by a large, diversified portfolio.

As a matter of policy, JCF does not award grants to other endowments.

5) SECONDARY GRANTS (RE-GRANTING)

JCF's committed board and staff team are sensitive to community needs. It is in the best interest of the community that this team be as directly linked as possible to the beneficiaries of the grants it awards. Remaining close to the end results of our efforts allows us to be both visible and accountable to the public we serve.

As a matter of policy, JCF does not provide organizations with funds for making grants to other organizations or individuals. Significant exceptions to this policy are situations in which the Foundation initiates a re-granting arrangement as part of one of its own strategic initiatives and is therefore closely and visibly involved. An example would be granting funds to a neighborhood based 501(c)(3) for the purpose of re-granting mini-grants to support grass roots efforts that strengthen children and families.

6) UNITS OF GOVERNMENT (city, county, township, etc.) AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Units of government and public schools are supported by taxpayer dollars. They spend those dollars on providing essential goods and services to the residents of their municipalities. There are, however, goods and services that are not essential, yet are important to enhancing the quality of life for residents. It is rare that taxpayer dollars are available to fund these nonessential but important enhancements. Funding from JCF to units of government and public schools is most appropriately considered when used to provide nonessential, quality-of-life enhancing goods and services not typically funded through taxes. The examples of typically supported by taxpayers include road repair, snow and garbage removal, life-saving equipment, sewers, and teacher salaries.

As a matter of policy, JCF will consider requests from units of government and public schools when the request for support is for programs, goods or services that would not be considered essential and therefore not typically funded through taxpayer dollars.

7) REPEAT FUNDING

JCF does not consider it a wise use of the community resources entrusted to it to fund programs, services or organizations on a long-term basis. Rather, our intent is to encourage nonprofits to develop realistic written plans for long-term sustainability that do not depend upon JCF or other foundation support. We do, however, recognize that there are certain situations, such as start-up periods for new programs, services and/or organizations, in which requests for repeat funding are legitimate.

The Foundation recognizes that a grantseeker may not always accurately estimate the length of time required to stabilize a new program, service and/or organization. This may result in an initial request for one-time-only start-up funds, followed by another request to extend the funding for a longer period of time. The Foundation will consider this type of request on a case-by-case basis. The criteria we will consider will be the outcomes achieved with our initial investment and the viability of the plans for sustainability.

We also recognize that there are many instances when the same organization approaches the Foundation for funding several times, each time with a request for a different program. If the program is truly new and different each time, we consider these requests entirely legitimate and not technically a form of repeat funding.

As a matter of policy, JCF will consider repeat funding for programs, services or organizations on a case by case basis, if the currently funded start-up program, service or organization has a realistic written plan for long-term sustainability of the new program, service or organization.

8) OPERATIONS OR MAINTENANCE

JCF believes that the best use of the community resources entrusted to it is to fund start-up costs rather than the costs of sustaining programs, services and/or organizations. Operations and maintenance costs are typically considered to be costs involved in sustaining these endeavors.

As a matter of policy, JCF will only consider funding operations and/or maintenance in start-up situations and exceptional circumstances.

9) TECHNOLOGY

JCF considers basic computer workstations to be standard office equipment. As such, they are part of operational expenses and would not be considered for funding. JCF may consider funding for specialized technology designed to meet programmatic outcomes.

As a matter of policy, JCF will not consider funding computers/computer equipment.

10) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Promoting excellence in the delivery of nonprofit programs and services is a major priority for the JCF. The Nonprofit Network provides Jackson area nonprofits with a wide range of management and volunteer resources that will improve their ability to fulfill their missions efficiently and effectively. We believe that the technical assistance needs of Jackson area nonprofits will be best met through membership in the Nonprofit Network. JCF will consider funding requests from Nonprofit Network members in situations where they are in need of extensive technical assistance not covered through their basic membership.

As a matter of policy, JCF will require that applicants seeking funding for extensive technical assistance be members in good standing of Nonprofit Network.

11) FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

Churches and other faith-based organizations are increasingly playing a key leadership role in addressing human service needs particularly at the grass roots level. JCF welcomes their involvement. In considering applications for funding from faith-based organizations, however, it is extremely important that we make it clear that we do not fund religious activities. We will consider funding secular activities sponsored by churches and other

faith-based organizations when participation in those activities is not based on religious beliefs and/or affiliations.

As a matter of policy, JCF will consider funding programs and/or services offered by churches and other faith-based organizations when they are secular in nature. To be considered for funding, participation must not be based on religious beliefs and/or affiliations.

12) NONDISCRIMINATION IN GRANTMAKING

JCF believes that a community-wide commitment to lifelong learning, development and growth for all citizens is essential to sustaining a healthy community. We also believe that a diversity of individuals, organizations and perspectives is essential to any effective community effort, and actively seek to promote access, equity, and inclusiveness, and to eliminate discrimination. The Foundation does not knowingly support organizations that discriminate.

GENERAL POLICY NOTE

Consideration for JCF unrestricted grantmaking funding will be based on our mission, beliefs, pledge to the community, community investment priorities, the unrestricted grantmaking policies, and identified community needs.

RECOMMENDED BY:	GRANT COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION DATE:	NOVEMBER 5, 2015
APPROVED BY:	BOARD OF TRUSTEES
APPROVAL DATE:	NOVEMBER 19, 2015
NEXT REVIEW DATE:	NOVEMBER 2018
REQUIRED BY NATIONAL STANDARDS:	YES