



Hendricks County
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Deedee Daniel Opportunity Fund Grant Program

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About the Deedee Daniel Opportunity Fund Grant Program

The Hendricks County Community Foundation invests in effective Hendricks County nonprofit organizations and charitable projects through the Deedee Daniel Opportunity Fund Grant Program. This program provides grants to enable organizations to provide effective programs and respond to the needs of people in the neighborhoods and communities they serve in Hendricks County. Grants will only be made to a nonprofit organization or a qualified charitable project that benefits Hendricks County and its communities.

Grant applications are accepted during specific times during the year. Deadlines, information on how to apply and specific criteria are available on our website at www.hendrickscountycf.org/grants/. Grants are awarded after the applications are received and reviewed by the Hendricks County Community Foundation Grant Committee and approved by the Hendricks County Board of Directors. Final funding decisions will be communicated to applicants.

What We Fund / Program Areas

The Deedee Daniel Opportunity Fund makes grants to nonprofit organizations and charitable projects whose work falls into one or more of these program areas:

Arts and Culture

- Efforts that increase the accessibility and quality of arts programming
- Efforts that provide intensive curriculum-based arts education for students
- Including but not limited to art appreciation, public display of art, art conservation and audience development

Community Development

- Efforts that increase the connectivity, vitality and attractiveness of neighborhoods and communities
- Efforts that engage and involve neighborhood residents in community-building and community change
- Including but not limited to leadership development, community activities and quality of life enhancement

Education

- Efforts that prepare middle and high school students to access and succeed in post-secondary opportunities
- Efforts that increase life skills that lead to increased independence
- Efforts that are creative and effective in promoting academic success
- Including but not limited to contemporary education issues, special needs and positive educational development

Environment

- Efforts that preserve existing natural spaces and resources
- Efforts that improve physical spaces for community benefit
- Including but not limited to parks, recreation and environmental enhancement and awareness

Health & Human Services

- Efforts that provide safe and affordable support services for vulnerable population
- Efforts that increase access to nutritious food
- Efforts that promote healthy and active lifestyles
- Efforts that increase access to health care services for low income and vulnerable populations
- Including but not limited to services to families and individuals in economic stress and programs addressing elder and special need issues

Youth

- Efforts that promote healthy youth development during out-of-school time
- Including but not limited to youth leadership and development

What We Don't Fund

The Deedee Daniel Opportunity Fund will not fund:

- Bands, sports teams, or other groups without a philanthropic project
- Annual appeals, galas or membership contributions
- Fundraising events such as golf tournaments, walk-a-thons and fashion shows
- Grants to individuals
- Projects aimed at promoting a particular religion or construction projects for religious institutions
- Operating, program and construction costs at schools, universities and private academies unless there is a significant opportunity for community use or collaboration
- Organizations or projects that discriminate based upon race, ethnicity, age, gender or sexual orientation
- Political campaigns or direct lobbying efforts by 501(c)(3) organizations
- Post-event, after-the-fact situations or debt retirement

- Medical, scientific or academic research
- Publications, films, audiovisual and media materials, programs produced for artistic purposes or produced for resale

Criteria Used to Review Applications

When reviewing applications, we look for signs of efficient and effective organizations. We recognize that not every organization will meet all of these criteria. The criteria are meant as a general guide, not a definitive checklist. We believe there are many models of successful nonprofit organizations. Signs of effective organizations include:

Sustainability

Has the organization demonstrated its ability to attract the resources necessary to maintain its work? Does the organization have appropriate growth strategies?

Effective operations

Does the organization have the appropriate staff and internal systems to be efficient and effective? Is the organization fiscally responsible? Is the organization seeking alternative sources of funding?

Proven success

Does the organization have clearly defined outcomes towards which it is working? Does the organization have a track record of achieving its goals? Is the organization making a difference? Does the organization incorporate best practice approaches to serve its target population? Has the organization demonstrated its ability to measure success and impact?

Strong leadership

Does the organization have a clear mission and a plan for how it will achieve its mission? Does the organization have the appropriate management and board leadership to provide direction and oversight?

Innovation and creativity

Is the organization creative in addressing community problems or the needs of a specific population? Is the organization nimble and able to evolve to respond to the needs of its constituents and the community?

Accessibility

Is the organization knowledgeable about and have programs that are responsive to differences in languages, customs, abilities, gender, sexual orientation and race?

Collaboration

Can the organization identify peer organizations and clearly articulate how they are similar/different? Can the organization bring together the strengths of multiple organizations to advance their mutual goals, share their combined knowledge and reduce duplication of efforts?

Engagement

Are the constituents, partners, and community leaders informed, involved and invested in the success of the organizations efforts? Does the organization engage its constituents in planning and evaluation?