

## REIDSVILLE AREA FOUNDATION GRANTMAKING GUIDELINES

Reidsville Area Foundation (RAF) seeks to help build a thriving Rockingham County that provides opportunities for all residents to live healthy, productive lives. The Foundation invests in initiatives and programs that are designed to improve the education, health and quality of life of the residents of Rockingham County. This document describes the framework of focus areas, criteria and funding preferences that the Foundation employs to conduct its grantmaking activities.

**Criteria.** In order to be eligible for consideration, proposals must meet the following criteria:

- The applicant must be a public charity, a governmental unit or a public institution.
- All funding must benefit the residents of Rockingham County.
- Proposed projects must align with one of the Foundation's focus areas.

**Framework.** Reidsville Area Foundation conducts grant making activity exclusively in Rockingham County, North Carolina. Our grantmaking centers on four focus areas: education, healthcare, human services, and community and economic development.

- **Education funding** is aimed at increasing support for public education. We support curriculum enhancements and professional development opportunities in traditional public schools in Rockingham County. We also fund place-based initiatives to connect families and communities to schools. Place-based initiatives are aimed at creating social and academic success of students in specific geographical areas.
- **Healthcare funding** is focused largely on the safety net for uninsured and underserved residents of Rockingham County. We support increased collaboration between healthcare entities and coordination of healthcare resources. We will consider initiatives that aim to prevent childhood obesity and chronic disease, particularly diabetes, in our healthcare funding.
- **Community development funding** is focused on efforts to make our communities more livable for residents. We support municipal-led efforts that demonstrate a clear vision, community buy-in, and leveraged resources. Economic incentive and workforce development funding is determined on a case by case basis. Projects that are aimed at creating a more diversified, stronger economy in Rockingham County are of interest to the Foundation.
- **Human services funding** is extremely limited and considered on a case by case basis.

**Funding preferences.** Reidsville Area Foundation views the following characteristics as hallmarks of a strong application:

- **Long term impact.** Projects that make long-lasting and beneficial changes in the quality of life of Rockingham County residents are a priority of the Reidsville Area Foundation. The Foundation will work proactively with partners to develop projects that have a long term beneficial impact on our county.
- **Sustainability.** The long-term sustainability of projects is a key consideration in funding decision. A strong application will address the long-term viability of a project in a realistic and concrete way.
- **Collaboration.** The Foundation places priority on collaboration between organizations. Projects that demonstrate a commitment across diverse organizations to address a common issue are encouraged.
- **Funding partnership.** The Foundation encourages applicants to develop projects with support from multiple stakeholders. Stakeholders can include nonprofits, governmental units, private organizations and other funders.

- **Reidsville area.** Reidsville Area Foundation was created as a result of the merger of Annie Penn Hospital with the Cone Health System. Although county-wide projects are encouraged, projects serving the Reidsville area are considered as part of our core funding strategy.

**Types of Grants Available.** Grant applications are accepted throughout the year. Funding decisions will be made at our Board of Directors meetings in October, December, February, April, June, and August. Please complete your application in the month preceding a board meeting month, with deadlines listed on our website. Grant consultations ahead of submission are highly encouraged.

**BOARD APPROVED FOCUS AREA GRANTS** –Reidsville Area Foundation will consider all applications at each Board meeting. The Board of Directors approves all awards larger than \$2,500, with over 90% of our grants being board approved.

**CAPACITY STRENGTHENING GRANTS** – Reidsville Area Foundation believes capacity strengthening grants enhance an organization’s infrastructure, boosting its effectiveness, sustainability, and ability to expand services. These grants usually take the form of consulting or technical assistance in board development and education, fundraising, staff training, or other areas that strengthen an organization’s ability to work effectively, be sustainable, or expand services. Capacity Strengthening grants are typically 6-18 months. Requests over \$5,000 require Executive Director approval ahead of application submission.

**CAPITAL CAMPAIGNS AND CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**- RAF will consider funding of capital campaigns or construction projects that are directly related to the provision of services. A meeting with RAF staff is required prior to consideration of RAF funding of a capital campaign. Staff will advise organizations about the schedule for submission of necessary forms for financial support of a capital campaign. This is due to RAF’s minimum distribution requirements by the IRS within a fiscal year and the policy of no grant funds being released prior to the start of construction, renovation, or purchase of equipment.

Grant funds for capital equipment purchases of \$25,000 or more require three quotes prior to submission of a purchase order for the equipment. The organization is not required to select the quote with the lowest price. If approved, grant funds will be released with the submission after the purchase order.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DISCRETIONARY GRANTS** - Discretionary grants are smaller grants, up to \$2,500, distributed at the discretion of the Executive Director. These are often in the form of pilot project funding, rapid response or emergency funding as urgent community issues arise.

**BOARD DISCRETIONARY GRANTS** - Members of the Board of Directors and Committees designate funds annually to assist eligible organizations in Rockingham County. There is no application process for this undesignated funding. Board members earn \$500 per board meeting attended; non-board Program Committee members earn \$200 per meeting.

**GENERAL OPERATING GRANTS** - General Operating Grants are unrestricted funding for core activities and daily operations for nonprofits with an established relationship with Reidsville Area Foundation. Applications are considered on a case-by-case basis, and include the following guidelines:

- Requests require Executive Director approval ahead of application;
- Applicants must be a current or recent priority area funded non-profit partner (not government agency);
- Applicants must exhibit an organization-wide approach to equity and social justice work and practices;

- Applicant must demonstrate intentionality in community engagement, including the voice of individuals served in the organization's service delivery design, implementation and facilitation;
- Maximum grant amounts are calculated on a sliding scale based on the applicant's operating income. Organizations with annual income less than \$100,000 have a grant limit of 20% prior year revenues. Organizations with annual income greater than \$100,000 have a great limit of 15% prior year revenues.

**General Guidelines.** The following guidelines will be used by the Reidsville Area Foundation (RAF) Board of Directors and staff in the review, evaluation and approval of grant funding. The Board of Directors may adopt temporary guidelines from time to time as deemed necessary and prudent considering such factors as the number of multi-year funding commitments in effect, the performance of invested assets, proactive funding, etc.

MINIMUM GRANT AMOUNT- No minimum grant amount has been established.

MAXIMUM GRANT AMOUNT- No maximum grant amount has been set.

REIDSVILLE AREA FOUNDATION SERVICE AREA- The service area is defined as Rockingham County with grant funds provided for the benefit of the residents of the county.

Some grantee organizations provide services in Rockingham County for a limited number of clients who reside outside of the county. It is the responsibility of the organization applying for a grant to report to RAF the percentage of clients receiving services who reside outside of Rockingham County.

Further, RAF will consider on a case by case basis grant funding for organizations located outside of the county that provide services outside of Rockingham County for county residents. The organization applying must provide supporting information to show how funding provided by RAF will be used to provide services for Rockingham County residents.

APPLICATION FREQUENCY - There will be no limit to the number of applications an organization may submit or how frequently an organization receives funding from RAF.

MEDICAL RESEARCH- Grants will not be funded in support of medical research.

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENTS- Grants may be awarded for assessments but will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

FEASIBILITY STUDIES- Grants generally will not be funded for feasibility studies.

MATCHING GRANT FUNDING- In order to leverage RAF grantmaking, grant applications which include a commitment for full or partial matched funding are encouraged when submitted by an eligible organization. The Foundation will consider matching grant commitments on a case by case basis.

If a matching grant commitment from another grant maker expires before a final RAF decision is made, the RAF Board may consider making a funding commitment outside the normal RAF schedule on a case by case basis.

GRANTMAKING TO RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS- Rather than fund grants to individual religious organizations, RAF will normally consider funding of coalitions of two or more such organizations formed to specifically provide services or programs and are formally designated by the IRS as 501 c 3.

FINANCIAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS – Organizations are required to provide the current year approved budget and financial statements or audits from the most recently completed fiscal year. Depending upon the organization's year end and most recent financial information provided with the application, internally prepared financial statements may be requested if the most recently prepared information is more than 6 months old.

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REQUIREMENTS – Reidsville Area Foundation requires that any funding consideration of \$40,000 - \$100,000 require an end of year financial statement prepared by a licensed certified public accountant. Funding considerations over \$100,000 must be accompanied by no less than the previous fiscal year's financial statements audited by an independent, certified public accountant.

NEW NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS - RAF will consider funding for new organizations limited to an amount equal to public contributions received during the previous year.

SPONSORSHIPS – RAF will not fund sponsorships for grantee organization events.

September 2006  
Revised September 2007  
Revised September 2009  
Revised September 2011  
Revised October 2013  
Revised September 2014  
Revised 2019  
Combined documents and approved February 2025