

## **Eligibility Requirements**

We make grants to organizations that are

- Committed to making a difference in the lives of Vermont kids.
- Serving the people in sixteen towns; Arlington, Danby, Dorset, Jamaica, Landgrove, Londonderry, Manchester, Peru, South Londonderry, Stratton, Sunderland, Townsend, Wardsboro, Weston, Windham and Winhall. In some cases, we make grants to organizations that serve these towns and other communities. To receive a grant, it is necessary for those organizations to document how many people from the communities we support will benefit from our grant.
- A qualified 501 3 ( c ) organization
- Employing staff or providing services without discrimination based on race, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability or sexual orientation

Grants are NOT made to support endowment, operating expenses, religious purposes, debt service and municipal or government entities unless the town is working in partnership with a non-profit organization on a project that is beyond the normal scope of responsibility for the town budget. As a general rule, we do not make more than one grant to an organization within a twelve month period, and we ask that organizations take that into consideration when applying for a grant. Exceptions will be made in the event of an unforeseen need or opportunity. Grant application deadlines have historically been March 1 and September 1.

## **McCarty Grants**

The McCarty Grant Program was named in honor of Barbara McCarty. Barbara was committed to the community in which she lived. Barbara was a fund-raiser and advocate of community nonprofit organizations and was an inspired leader of the Stratton Foundation who passed away in 2007.

Priority is given to organizations with relatively modest financial resources where a grant in the range of \$500 to \$1,500 but no greater than \$2,000 will have a significant impact on the community or communities served. In each proposal, we look for evidence of a well developed plan, a strong support (staff, volunteers, financial) from the organization itself, a resourceful approach to increasing interest and financial support from the community served by the project and the organization, committed and skilled leadership.

## **Focus Grants**

The purpose of the Focus Grant Program is to support organization-changing initiatives that have the promise of enabling an organization to move to another level of service and sustainability. Applications must include full documentation of both the need and the anticipated and measurable outcome. In making grants, priority is given to organizations with relatively modest financial resources where a Focus Grant will have a significant impact.

The Foundation typically awards one-year grants that range from \$2,000 to \$5,000 and may make a total commitment for up to three years not to exceed \$10,000. Multi-year grants applications are considered, when an organization needs more than one year to reach the goals or stated outcomes of a project. Multi-year grant applications are reviewed annually. Grant recipients must submit a Grant Follow-Up Report enabling the foundation to determine whether the grant should be renewed and upon what basis. Given that the three-year total may not exceed \$10,000, we look for proposals that include a viable plan for assuming the ongoing cost of the project in the operating budget.

## **Application Instructions**

Please email the proposal narrative on two pages or less, the completed application, and the cover letter to [strattonfndn@yahoo.com](mailto:strattonfndn@yahoo.com). The narrative is your opportunity to present additional information about the project that is not included in the application that will assist us in understanding your proposal.

Applications not received on or before the deadline, cannot be considered. Do not FAX packages.

Please mail one (1) hard copy of the following

- The cover letter
- The completed application
- The proposal narrative in two pages or less
- Relevant brochures or fliers
- Most recent audit or third party financial review (if available) or the most recent fiscal year financial statement
- A copy of the current operating budget and the budget for the project under consideration
- Board of Directors names and role (officer, chair of a committee etc.) in organization
- Federal IRS letter of tax-free determination, 501(c) (3) - not needed if you are a public school, religious organization or have sent us this documentation with previous applications

The Executive Director screens grant applications to confirm required information is included in the correct format. No matter how worthy, all applications that do not follow the guidelines will be returned. If clarification is necessary, follow up may include a site visit, consultation with specialists or agencies in the same field, or any reasonable activities that help the Foundation understand the project and the proposed use of the funds. The Grants Committee reviews all proposals at a regularly scheduled meeting.