Grow Your Story Grants

Now, more than ever, nonprofits are being challenged to innovate and deliver programs and services under unprecedented circumstances. However, particularly for smaller nonprofits, doing so can be difficult with a decline in operating support due to canceled or minimized fundraisers and other current funding challenges.

To assist small-to-medium sized nonprofits as they strive to grow, the Community Foundation is offering a “Grow Your Story Grant” opportunity. Grow Your Story grants will provide A) a $2,500 unrestricted general operating support grant to boost capacity and B) assistance with the production of a marketing video to share their good work, help generate awareness, and inspire donors.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Grants will be made to 501(C)(3) nonprofit organizations within the Community Foundation’s 12-county service area: Adams, Brown, Hancock & Pike in Illinois; and Clark, Knox, Lewis, Marion, Monroe, Pike, Ralls, and Shelby in Missouri.
- Only organizations with an annual operation budget of $300,000 and under are eligible to apply for this grant.

Application Requirements

- Applicants will be asked to briefly “tell their story,” beyond their mission statement, including aspirations, the difference the organization is making, challenges, and opportunities.
- Applicants will be asked to describe how the general operating support grant will assist with the growth of their organization.
- Applicants will be asked to describe how they will use the marketing video to expand the reach of their organization to help “Grow Their Story” of making a difference in our communities.

Grant Detail & Amount Available:

- The Community Foundation is providing this opportunity for up to 6 nonprofits which meet the criteria. This includes:
  - A $2,500 unrestricted general operating support grant;
  - Assistance with the filming and production of a marketing video, which will be filmed and produced by Community Foundation’s Development Officer, Kaylee McFarland.

Timeline:

- This grant application will open September 17, 2020 and close October 30, 2020.
- Award decisions will be announce by mid-November, 2020.
- Grants will be distributed by mid-December, 2020.
- Videos will be filmed and produced between January and March, 2021 on dates mutually decided upon between the Community Foundation and the grantee organization.

Process:

- Organizations must complete the Grow Your Story application on the Community Foundation’s online grant management platform. The application can be found by visiting the Community Foundation’s website at https://www.mycommunityfoundation.org/ and selecting the Non-Profit Login tab at the top right-hand corner of the home page.
The video will be collaboratively produced with the Community Foundation’s Development Officer, Kaylee McFarland. Selected organizations will work directly with Kaylee throughout the process.

For more information, please contact Chief Community Officer Heath Richmond at 217-222-1237 or by email at hrichmond@mycommunityfoundation.org.