**RUBRIC**

**COMMUNITY NEEDS GRANTS PROGRAM MAY 2021**

**Overview**

In May 2021, the Delaware COVID-19 Strategic Response Fund’s Community Needs Grants program will provide an opportunity for Delaware nonprofits to apply for general operating grants. The Fund is committed to keeping organizations strong and helping to them keep going, as they “return to normal” or embrace a “new normal,” as the effects of pandemic are ongoing.  
  
This will be the focus of this current round; future rounds may have a different purpose based on the evolving needs of the community.  
  
These grants will be flexible and will allow organizations to use funds as needed to continue to operate in the midst of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Our goal is to fund a mix of organizations in communities across Delaware and to support organizations working in a range of fields addressing an array of challenges. Each successful applicant is eligible for a grant of $10,000 per organization in this round.  
  
Organization Eligibility

* In 2020, the organization must have had an operating budget for the fiscal (or calendar) year of at least $25,000, but not more than $750,000.
* Organizations must be actively providing services.
* Must be a 501(c)(3) public charity in good standing.
* 100% of the requested amount must benefit Delaware communities.
* **Organizations are not eligible to apply this round if they received a general operating grant in the March 2021 round.**
* Organizations are eligible to apply if they received funding previously from the Delaware COVID-19 Strategic Response Fund (March 2020 – September 2020).

Applications must adhere to the guidelines. Applications will be evaluated in the following categories:

* Demonstrated Need
* Mission Impact / Use of Funds

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| **Demonstrated Need** | | | |
| **Revenue Loss**  Does the organization demonstrate a loss in revenue, by comparing revenue from the most recently completed fiscal (or calendar) year with revenue from the prior fiscal (or calendar) year? | 5 points  Clear demonstration of revenue loss is provided, and is consistent with provided financial documents. | 3 points  Demonstrated loss is generally clear and consistent with provided financial documents; minimal inconsistencies exist. | 0 points  Demonstrated loss is not provided or is not consistent with provided financial documents. |
| **COVID’s Impact on Revenue**  Does the application include a description of how COVID-19 contributed to this revenue loss? | 5 points  Clear and acceptable explanations related to COVID are provided. Services impacted are clear and relate to the pandemic. | 3 points  Most significant variations are explained and relate to COVID. Services impacted are not clearly detailed. | 0 points  Services impacted aren’t related to the pandemic or are not addressed. |
| **Priority Consideration**  In awarding grants, priority consideration will be given to:   * Smaller nonprofits. * Organizations with a Board of Directors that represents the diversity and demographics of the clients and community served. | 5 points  Organization aligns completely with priority considerations. | 3 points  Organization aligns in most aspects with priority considerations | 0 points  Organization does not align with priority considerations. |

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| **Mission Impact/Use of Funds** | | | |
| **Mission Impact**  Did the organization describe the measurable impact it is providing, especially for communities disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, which will be supported by this grant? | 5 points  Organization clearly defines its constituents and the challenges they face, and is clear about how the organization serves communities most affected by the pandemic. Specific goals and outcomes are included, which the organization uses to measure impact. | 3 points  Organization’s definition of constituents and their challenges is vague.  Constituents include mostly communities disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. Some specific goals and outcomes for measuring organization’s impact are included. | 0 points  Organization is unclear about population served, and/or  need for service is unclear.  Communities disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 are not part of the organization’s constituency. Application lacks clear goals and outcomes used for measuring organization’s impact. | |
| **Use of Grant Funding**  Did the organization provide clear, specific information about the intended use of this operating grant? | 5 points  The application clearly articulates how this request will help the organization benefit the community and achieve its stated goals and outcomes. | 3 points  The application is vague or incomplete in how this request will help the organization benefit the community and achieve its stated goals and outcomes. | 0 points  The application does not clearly define how the grant will support the organization in serving the community and achieving its stated goals and outcomes. |