

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR PARSONS AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANTS

2017 Grant Applications may now be submitted with deadline of midnight January 31, 2017.

The Community Foundation is a unique charitable organization established to benefit the residents of Parsons and the surrounding area... within a 25 mile radius of Parsons.

Program areas: Arts and culture, education, health, parks and recreation, social services, or civic improvements and affairs.

Elements we are looking for:

1. A program or project positively impacting local citizens and/or the community
2. Programs that develop competencies, skills, and healthy habits enabling individuals to live fuller, more productive and healthy lives
3. A proposal which addresses a significant need affecting a broad segment of our population or special population
4. Promotes the cooperation of two or more agencies to avoid duplication of services
5. Organizations demonstrating the capacity to provide the necessary services with good administrative and financial management
6. Evidence of support from volunteers and in-kind resources to sustain the program

In the past, approximately 25 grants have been awarded each year ranging from \$500 to \$50,000. However, the typical grant amount is in the \$1000 to \$5000 range. Grant proposals showing either internal fundraising efforts or collaboration with other organizations are generally viewed more favorably than those proposals asking PACF for the entire amount of funding necessary to complete their project.

Parsons Area Community Foundation

GRANTS IN ACTION: The Parsons Community Garden (PCG) started in 2010 and occupies two residential lots of FEMA buyout land. Before the 2003 tornado, this centrally located land had residential homes but after the tornado it was discovered that the land was in a 100 year flood plain even though the area had not flooded in anyone's memory. The City of Parsons has given the PCG a long term lease for the property. Additional space is available if more land is needed.

PCG was founded with the goal of providing people the opportunity to grow healthy food, be physically active, and interact with others while also reducing their food costs. The PCG promotes accessible, inclusive gardening to people of all ages, health conditions, and disabilities. With an average annual membership of 80 members, PCG offers membership dues on a sliding scale based on need. Approximately 65% of its members participate at no cost. This increases the need for private donations since the paying members cannot support all the costs of needed garden improvements.

To make improvements for individuals with mobility issues, problems with strength or fatigue, and other disabilities, the grant received from the Parsons Area Community Foundation provided funds to purchase raised hose reels, adapted tools, and soil improvement for four-foot square totes. These improvements have allowed gardeners of all abilities and ages to join. The PCG has 87 active members this year - some individuals admitted they joined because the easy use of the hose reels and adapted tools removed a barrier for them. We are very grateful for the support of the community foundation.

