

## **The Community Foundation for the Twin Tiers, Inc.(CFTT)**

### **Statement of Discretionary Grantmaking Policy**

#### **Grantmaking Policy**

The CFTT is a broad-based public charity whose mission is to build a permanent endowment that can respond to the most pressing current, and future, needs of our region. The Foundation is governed by a Board of Trustees; selected for their integrity and knowledge of community needs. The Foundation seeks to be flexible and open to a broad range of conventional and innovative concepts which can best address the needs and issues defined by our communities and its institutions. Grants are not limited to particular program areas.

1. The CFTT makes discretionary grants for a wide range of philanthropic purposes including Arts and Culture, Children and Youth, Education, Community and Economic Development, Health and Human Services, History and Heritage, Recreation and the Environment and other fields for the benefit of residents of Bradford, Potter, Sullivan, and Tioga Counties in PA and Tioga County, NY.
2. The CFTT will make discretionary grants only to organizations that are tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, except under extraordinary and compelling circumstances. Grants to governments and other organizations engaged in a charitable purpose may also, on occasion, be considered. The Foundation will not provide any direct assistance to individuals.
3. The CFTT accepts discretionary grant proposals for innovative programs; capital campaigns, operating funds, and special projects.
4. The CFTT makes discretionary grants usually only for programs directly benefiting the residents served by the Foundation and exhibiting collaborative efforts.
5. The CFTT as an organization does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion, marital status, age or disability, nor does it make grants to organizations that do so.
6. The CFTT will seek to meet the needs of the community rather than of individuals.
7. The CFTT will adopt a pro-active approach to identifying grantmaking opportunities addressing demonstrated community needs.
8. The CFTT will monitor the utility of each grant as well as the effectiveness of its overall grantmaking program.
9. Staff, committee and Board members must comply with CFTT's adopted Conflict of Interest Policy. They must give prompt, full and frank disclosure of their interest to the Board prior to any action being taken. In the case of a conflict of interest, the individual shall not vote on, nor use their personal influence on, nor participate other than to present factual information or respond to questions in deliberations on grants to an organization with which he or she is directly affiliated.
10. Accountability: All grant recipients will report on the expenditures of grant funds and the results of the projects supported. Reports are due within one year of a grant payment. Requests for extension are reviewed on a case by case basis. Any funds not spent for the specific purpose of the grant, must be returned to the CFTT and cannot be diverted to other uses without the prior approval of the CFTT Board of Directors.

## Guiding Principles for CFTT Grantmaking

The CFTT will take a thorough look at all the components of our rural communities contributing to our quality of life, producing healthy communities, and providing for the health, happiness, safety, and productivity needs of residents. It will select the priority areas/issues it will fund using these guiding principles:

- ◆ Projects that are collaborative in nature, foster regionalism and connectivity while maintaining community integrity, and take into account the impact on future resources.
- ◆ Projects that provide leveraging opportunities as well as opportunities to provide seed money.
- ◆ Projects with a preventative strategy for addressing problems of our younger generations. The Foundation wants to fund projects which provide a “hand up,” not a “hand out.”
- ◆ Project that look at societal problems holistically, that take a systems approach to problem solving. It will look for projects that envision the future and take the long-term, preventive view and have a long-term impact on communities.
- ◆ Projects that take advantage of present resources, that apply what is available, i.e., using reverse mortgages or building different types of housing for the elderly to free-up housing stock for young families or renovating dilapidated housing, fixing it using sweat equity while teaching new skills, in return for a chance to purchase the home at low or no interest.
- ◆ Projects that adapt to market realities and have a realistic project scale to address the problem identified.
- ◆ Projects where people are “passionate” about their idea—are going to do it no matter what.
- ◆ Projects that build local networking capacity, show local ownership, increase the pool of local resources, enhance people’s self image and work ethic, and/or are inter-generational.
- ◆ Projects that assist in building the capacity of our rural communities to develop their communications capacity, inter-connectivity, and telecommunications infrastructure.
- ◆ Projects that manage change and deal with it pro-actively.
- ◆ Projects that help break the cycle of poverty and increase the capacity of families to nurture their children (access to health care, individual child skill assessments, adequate food/clothing/shelter/ nurturing/stimulation, reading skills, social skills, access to vocational and higher education, work-ready skills).
- ◆ It will **NOT** fund projects that haven’t been identified as a need within the last five years in a community strategic planning/visioning process or a community needs assessment.

The Foundation wishes to assist local residents in maintaining our rural way of life and will work at assisting communities and their residents in identifying local needs if they haven’t done so already. The Foundation will act as a hub for connecting our rural areas together and as a clearing house for best practices.

It will help fund strategic/visioning planning projects and participate in the process. It will build local capacity (expertise) by working with organizations presenting promising ideas on how to prepare a successful application and by providing training in the leadership skill sets needed by project leaders. The Foundation plans on developing a publication which highlights community success stories and on regularly conducting public opinion surveys to help identify local needs. Any project funded by the foundation must agree to have team members participate in foundation training sessions that will provide grantees with skills needed to assist them in successfully implementing their project.