

Grant Guidelines

Mission Statement

Inspiring life-long giving and connecting people, places and organizations to worthy causes across Howard County.

About Us

Founded in 1969 by visionary James W. Rouse, The Columbia Foundation has awarded millions of dollars in grants to numerous civic, cultural, human service and educational programs throughout Howard County. These grants have helped launch organizations and new projects that provide critical services and cultural opportunities in our community. This is possible thanks to the generosity of those who live and work in Howard County.

From Elkridge and Laurel to Clarksville and Columbia, corporate and personal gifts really do help us build a better Howard County.



Grant Calendar

	Operational Grants	Project Grants
Applications Mailed	July	November
Applications Due	1 st Fri. in Sept.	1 st Fri. in Feb.
Reviewed & Approved	Oct./Nov.	March/April
Grantee Notification	Late Nov.	Late April
Monies Distributed	January	June

Eligibility & Guidelines

The Columbia Foundation is a public foundation that supports organizations and agencies that contribute to the quality of life in Howard County, specifically:

- Organizations with 501(c)(3) tax status and other entities that meet IRS charitable guidelines. Organizations must deliver services to Howard County residents in the areas of human services, the arts, education or community affairs.
- Each grantee is required to comply with the terms and conditions of the award and to provide an evaluation of the outcome of the funding.
- Members of the Board of Trustees make site visits to organizations that request funding and to those that are grant recipients.
- Renewed funding depends upon a reapplication and evaluation process.
- Organizations may receive a project or operational grant within a calendar year, but not both.
- Depending on circumstances, a second grant could be given if contingency grant requirements are met.
- We are particularly interested in proposals that demonstrate practical solutions and efforts at prevention, collaboration and volunteer support.
- The Columbia Foundation does not fund religious or sectarian activities, medical research or requests from individuals.

Types of Grants

Project grants encourage and support the development of innovative programs, services or events.

Operational grants are sustaining funds to organizations that have been in existence for at least three years, have received at least one Foundation grant within that time, and have received favorable evaluations.

Contingency grants are available year-round and are intended to alleviate unanticipated situations or crises. Applicants must consult with the Foundation's President prior to applying.