

Robert E. Lucas Memorial Fund Grantmaking Guidelines

The Robert E. Lucas Memorial Fund (the Lucas Fund) supports nonprofit organizations that serve children and youth in Clinton County. Projects demonstrating collaboration and creative approaches to our toughest issues are of interest to the Lucas Fund.

Dr. Robert Lucas was an educator, business, and community leader, who was a founder of the Clinton County Foundation. In addition, he created the Clinton County Leadership Institute and supported Downtown Wilmington and the Chamber of Commerce. He served as president of the Ohio PTA and as a supervisor for the Ohio Department of Education. The Robert E. Lucas Memorial Fund carries on his legacy and continues his commitment to Clinton County.

Eligibility

- 501(c)3 organizations, government entities, nonprofit organizations, and otherwise tax-exempt groups that are based in or serve Clinton County.
- Organizations that do not meet the organizational status will need a fiscal sponsorship from a qualifying organization.

Those who have received Lucas Fund grants in the past are invited to apply, however these nonprofits should demonstrate a new approach in the way they will operate, the population they will serve, expansion of a program, or introduction of a new initiative.

All grant recipients must agree with the Clinton County Foundation's non-discrimination policies. Under these policies, no person may be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity funded in whole or in part with funds made available by Clinton County Foundation on the basis of race, creed, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression, age, physical or mental ability, pregnancy, veteran status, military obligations, and marital status. However, it is not the intent of the Clinton County Foundation to prevent or limit the awarding of grants for projects designed to serve specifically defined populations or programs that seek to guarantee equality of opportunity to, and to reduce underrepresentation and underutilization of, minorities and women.

Standards and Priorities

- Proposals should be clearly defined with a start and end date. Generally, grant funds are awarded for a project that can be completed within one year.
- Proposals that are new, unique, pilot or address unmet needs in Clinton County.

Bringing out the best in our community.

- Projects that include alliances, partnerships, and collaboration between providers and organizations that share resources, broaden, deepen, and diversify participation in the provision of services.
- Projects involving youth of all ages, leadership development, and creative ideas linking various age groups.

Ineligible for grant support

- Debt-reductions, deficits, or previous obligations
- Support of religious activities
- Political campaigns, political projects, or attempts to influence legislation or government actors
- Regular budgetary items or projects that would otherwise receive governmental funding

Application Process

- All applications are made through the [Clinton County Foundation Grant Portal](#).
- Visit clintoncountyohiofoundation.org to set up an account and apply for a Lucas Fund grant.

Application Timeline

- Application window opens October 15 and closes January 31 each year.
- Applicants will be notified of funding decisions around April 1.

Questions about eligibility, criteria or grantmaking process should be directed to Alison Belfrage at alison@clintoncountyohiofoundation.org or 937.566.1634.