Central Indiana Senior Fund
2017 Grant Guidelines

About the Central Indiana Senior Fund's Grantmaking Program

The Central Indiana Senior Fund (CISF) invests in organizations and programs that serve seniors (age 55 and older) who are low to moderate income and/or isolated from community resources and opportunities. Our competitive grants enable organizations to provide effective programs and respond to the needs of seniors in the neighborhoods and communities that they serve. Eligible organizations serve seniors residing in the Central Indiana 8-County Region (Marion and the 7 surrounding counties). Priority may be given to organizations which have not received prior-year CISF funding.

Proposal Concept Form – Due May 5th, 2017

To be eligible to apply during the July 2017 application cycle, each organization looking to submit an application must first submit a Proposal Concept Form to the Foundation *no later* than midnight on May 5th, 2017. A link to the Proposal Concept Form can be found on the CISF website.

Types and Size of Grant Awards

The Senior Fund typically awards grants to provide operating, program and capacity building support. Grant size ranges from $5,000 to $40,000.
- Operating – Operating requests are considered up to $40,000 for organizations that serve our target population by mission, with seniors accounting for no less than 90% of overall constituency.
- Program – Program requests are considered from $5,000 to $25,000, and the 90% threshold does not apply.
- Capacity Building – typically proposals by invitation only.

Criteria Used to Review and Select Grant Awards

Proven Success
Does the organization and its programs have clearly defined outcomes towards which it is working? Does the organization and its programs have a track record of achieving its goals? Has the organization and its programs demonstrated the ability to measure success and impact? Does the organization and its programs incorporate best practice approaches to serve its target population?

Strong Leadership

Does the organization have a clear mission and a plan for how it will achieve its mission? Does the organization have the appropriate management and board leadership to provide direction and oversight?

Sustainability

Has the organization demonstrated its ability to attract the resources necessary to maintain its work? Does the organization have appropriate growth strategies? Does the organization have a future plan for sustaining the work for this proposal?

Effective Operations

Does the organization have the appropriate staff and internal systems to be efficient and effective? Is the organization fiscally responsible?

Engagement

Are the constituents, partners and community leaders informed, involved and invested in the success of the organizations efforts? Does the organization engage its constituents in planning and evaluation?

Collaboration

Can the organization bring together the strengths of multiple organizations to advance their mutual goals, share their combined knowledge and reduce duplication of efforts?

Innovation and Creativity

Is the organization creative in addressing the needs of the target population? Is the organization nimble and able to evolve to respond to the needs of its constituents and the community?

What We Fund

We make grants to not-for-profit organizations whose work falls into one or more of these elements:

Basic Needs
- Efforts to remove barriers to community resources, such as transportation, access to nutritious food, case management or emergency services
- Efforts that protect seniors from abuse and neglect

Health and Wellness
- Efforts that increase information and access to health care services
- Efforts that provide in-home health care, caregiver support, or low-cost health equipment options
- Neighborhood based, best-practice community wellness and fitness programs

Living Environment of Choice
- Efforts that provide safe and affordable housing and support services
- Efforts that provide home care, maintenance and modification services that enable seniors to remain in their homes
- Efforts that increase the safety, connectivity and accessibility of neighborhoods
- Efforts that strengthen quality residential care programs

Life Affirming Opportunities
- Efforts that increase access to cultural and educational opportunities, work training and placement and life-long learning
- Efforts that increase access to volunteerism and civic engagement
- Efforts that reduce isolation and increase access to community resources

What We Don't Fund

- Annual requests for support
- Organizations that are NOT tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) Public Charity of the Internal Revenue Code
- Grants to individuals
- Political campaigns or activities intended to influence public officials
- Projects aimed at promoting a particular religion
- Construction projects of schools, churches or other religious institutions
- Special events or fundraising activities
- Post event or after-the-fact situations or debt retirement
- Basic medical, scientific or academic research
- Organizations or projects that discriminate based upon race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender or sexual orientation

2017 Grant Timetable

Proposal Concept	Application Invitation	Applications Accepted	Staff Review	Board funding Decision	Notification
Rolling acceptance but *no later* than May 5	Early June	July 1 – July 31	August - October	November	Late November

Our Review Process

- Interested organizations are asked to complete a proposal concept form which will be reviewed by staff and Senior Fund Advisors.
- Eligible applicants will be invited to make formal application.
- After receiving applications, CICF staff will review each application.
- Staff will provide preliminary recommendations to grantmaking committees for their review and funding decisions.
- The Senior Fund Advisory Board will meet to make final funding decisions.
- Funding decisions will be communicated to applicant.

The Central Indiana Senior Fund Advisory Board reserves the right to change these guidelines or to make grants outside of these guidelines if it deems necessary to meet their mission.