

GRANT GUIDELINES

Updated September 2024

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PURPOSE

The Power of Change is funded primarily by voluntary contributions from Rappahannock Electric Cooperative (REC) members and from other funds donated for charitable purposes. The Power of Change is administered by the Community Awareness of Rappahannock Electric Charity, Inc. (CARE Charity, Inc. or CARE) which distributes funds per the criteria specified in these guidelines.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Grants will be made to non-profit organizations granted tax-exempt status under IRS Code Section 501 (c)(3) and serving one or more of the counties located within REC's service territory.
2. Grants must support one or more of the following categories:
 - a. Community service.
 - b. Health, recreation or safety.
 - c. Education, youth or the environment.
3. Due to the limited availability of funds, Grant recipients may not apply for subsequent funding for a period of two (2) years from the Grant cycle in which the Grant was awarded.
4. To be eligible for funding in future Grant cycles, previous grant recipients must have completed and returned a Grant Evaluation Form within 12 months from the date the Grant was received.
5. Only one application can be submitted for review in a twelve month period.

RESTRICTIONS

1. Grants will not be awarded to:
 - a. Individuals or to provide funding for payment of REC electric bills.
 - b. Lobbying or the election of candidates for office.
 - c. Fund-raising dinners, raffles or other related events.
 - d. Political organizations.
 - e. Advertising or ongoing operational expenses, including salaries and benefits.
 - f. Capital fund campaigns, national fund drives, or where funds "flow-through" to another agency or organization.
2. Grants will generally not be awarded to:
 - a. Pets, animals, or organizations related to animals, including animal welfare organizations.
 - b. Public and private schools and affiliated organizations.
 - c. Sectarian programs of religious organizations (see below).

Religious organizations may apply, but funds will only be awarded for programs which serve broad and non-sectarian purposes as demonstrated through their application and supporting documentation (e.g., funds may be awarded to a church, synagogue, mosque or other religious organization to support a food or clothing pantry for the homeless).

1. The following factors will be considered in the evaluation of all funding requests:
 - a. Level of community support for the program or project.
 - b. Potential benefit to area residents and/or the entire community.
 - c. Likelihood that the project will produce results that are quantitative, predictable, sustainable, and can be evaluated.
 - d. How a lack of funding will impact the organization.
 - e. Capability of the organization to deliver quality services or programs, including plans to share grant results with their constituents and the community at large.
2. CARE will evaluate funding requests and allocate contributions to accomplish the purposes and intent of these guidelines.
3. The CARE Board of Directors shall not make a donation in excess of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) without a majority vote of the entire CARE Board of Directors. Donations, upon proper approval of the CARE Board of Directors, may be made to any family unit, group, organization, or charity if the CARE Board of Directors determines such donation is in keeping with the purpose and spirit of the corporation and the Bylaws.

REQUIREMENTS

1. A new and complete application must be submitted with each round of funding. Incomplete applications will automatically be denied funding. All pages/sections of the application must be completed in full.
2. Copy of IRS exemption determination letter that qualifies you as a non-profit organization.
3. Completed Form 990 or Form 990-EZ for organization's most recent tax year, together with proof of filing, or evidence that organization is not required to file.
4. Organizations most recent annual financial report.
5. Information that helps describe your organization and its purpose (brochures, literature, fact sheets, etc).
6. A brief statement discussing how a lack of funding will impact the organization's ability to deliver services.
7. Detailed budget showing how requested funds will be spent.
8. Detailed timeline for the project funding is being requested for.
9. As appropriate, any bids, quotes, or estimates directly relating to your request.
10. Specific strategies as to how the organization will help spread the good news about The Power of Change and the importance of all REC members making voluntary monthly contributions.
11. To be eligible for funding in future grant cycles, previous grant recipients must have completed and returned a Grant Evaluation Form within 12 months from the date the grant was received.

INQUIRIES/NOTIFICATION

Deadlines to apply are February 10 and August 10. Funding is determined by the CARE Board in March and September. Applicants are notified of status in April and October. Visit thepowerofchange.org for more information and to apply online. Inquiries can be made by calling (800) 552-3904 or emailing ThePowerOfChange@myrec.coop.