



WILLIAM F. THIEL TRUST 2026 GRANT GENERAL INFORMATION AND SCHEDULE

Background

William Thiel was a long-time philanthropist in the Wyoming County area. His generosity through monetary gifts to the hospital, fire departments, and other community organizations in Wyoming County was well known. He also left a significant legacy to the County through the creation of the William F. Thiel Trust, a fund held by the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo. The fund document of the William F. Thiel Trust states that distributions

"from this gift shall be used and applied by the Governing Committee of The Buffalo Foundation (now the Board of Directors of the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo) for the use and benefit of the health requirements of the residents of Wyoming County, New York."

Project Focus

In 2006, the Community Foundation implemented its first strategic plan. As a part of the plan, the foundation made the decision to put a concerted effort behind the Thiel Trust commissioning the first Wyoming County Health Needs Assessment. The assessment surveyed local healthcare experts, governmental agencies, providers, and the general public along with a view of the general trends in national rural healthcare to determine what the highest needs of the county were. The Health Needs Assessment was updated in 2012.

With over 15 years of funding history guided by prior Health Needs Assessments, the Community Foundation recast the Wyoming County Health Needs Assessment in 2023. The 2024 to 2028 Thiel funding priorities were chosen utilizing both qualitative and quantitative input. A2 Associates, with guidance and input from Wyoming County healthcare professionals and local residents, created Wyoming County Health Trends and Impacts Report 2023

This full report is available at www.cfgb.org under the William F. Thiel Grants section of the website. Most pertinent to the process is the 2024 to 2028 Thiel Funding Priorities document. Applicants should review the information in detail to determine if their request fits within the identified interests.

Items of Importance:

- Grants are awarded only to organizations that have current Section 501(c)(3) status as determined by the Internal Revenue Service.
- Applicants must be located or delivering services in Wyoming County.
- Grant review/decisions are made by the Thiel Advisory Council comprised of people who reside in or have a strong connection to Wyoming County.
- Any one organization may submit one application per year.
- The Foundation will consider multiyear requests for up to three consecutive years of support *provided they have received funding from Thiel within the past five years. Absolutely no exceptions.*
- At any given time, organizations can only have one open competitive grant with the Thiel Trust.

- The Foundation requires that all grants be closed out within one year of the receipt of funds, with the exception of multiyear awards.
- The Foundation will consider allowing up to 10% of the grant amount for indirect costs.
- The Foundation reserves the right to pay grants in a single installment or in “draws” at its sole discretion.
- The Foundation requires that all successful applicants obtain three bids for any equipment purchase of \$10,000 and above.
- The use of grant funds for purposes not pre-approved by the Foundation or not supported through required documentation will result in a request that those grant funds be returned to the Foundation.
- The failure of an applicant to properly close out a grant in a timely manner will be a factor when considering new grants.
- The Foundation will not consider competitive funding for:
 - Higher education scholarships (separate application, deadlines, and process. Please contact scholarship@cfgb.org for more information)
 - Religious purposes. Funding cannot be used to support religious activities such as worship or proselytizing. Secular programs or services must be available to eligible participants without regard to religious belief or willingness to participate in religious activities.
 - Schools not registered with the New York State Education Department
 - Attendance at or sponsorship of fundraising events for organizations
 - Field trips unless they are part of a long-term program or curriculum
 - Annual events or festivals
 - Any partisan political activity. Funds from the foundation cannot be used to support or oppose a candidate for political office.
 - Projects and activities that have occurred. The Foundation will not, except in extraordinary cases, provide payment or reimbursement for expenses incurred prior to the funding decision being communicated to the applicant.

Next Steps

Applications **MUST** be submitted electronically online at www.cfgb.org utilizing the Foundant Grant Lifecycle Management system. No paper, pdf, or emailed applications will be accepted. Outcome reporting will also be online when closing the grant. Following, for your convenience, is an outline of the questions you will be required to address when completing your electronic application.

Timeline

November 17, 2025	Application available online
December 15, 2025 @ 4 PM	Application submission deadline
~Mid February 2026	Grant decisions communicated

Application deadline is December 15, 2025, at 4 PM—NO EXCEPTIONS. Applications in draft form on the website as of 4:01 PM will be considered abandoned and not eligible for funding.

Any questions related to this application process should be directed to: Director Community Impact
Darren Penoyer: darrenp@cfgb.org Phone: 716-852-2857, x206

2026 Thiel Trust Grant Application Questions

NOTE: Applications MUST be submitted electronically online at www.cfgb.org utilizing the Foundant Grant Lifecycle Manager system. No paper, pdf, or emailed applications will be accepted. The following questions are provided for your reference when completing the application online.

- Program/Program name (100 characters)
- Amount requested
- How many years of funding are you requesting?
 - The Foundation will consider multiyear requests for up to three consecutive years of support provided the applicant has received funding from Thiel within the past five years. Absolutely no exceptions.
- Organization mission statement (250 characters)
- **Concise** one sentence summary of grant purpose (300 characters)
- Date required
 - Thiel will not reimburse expenses already incurred. Please review the timeline and be strategic with this date.
- Five year history of prior grant requests to the Thiel Trust only (1,000 characters)
 - Previous requests, date submitted, and action (approved or denied) taken on each
- Financial background of organization including:
 - Annual operating expenses
 - Last fiscal year surplus/deficit
 - Accumulated surplus/deficit

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. **Funding priority** (pull down menu)
 - Choices:
 - Access and Navigation
 - Chronic Disease and Related Health Behaviors
 - Emergency Assistance for Low-Income Residents
 - Food Security
 - Mental Health/Behavioral Health
 - Transportation
 - N/A (Note, above priorities will be addressed before any other requests are funded)
2. **Define priority need - why should this be done?** (2,000 characters)
 - What specific funding priority does proposal address?
 - If your request doesn't address a priority, please outline what need your request will focus on
 - Who - and how many - will benefit? (must be quantified)
3. **Funding priority/need advancement** (3,500 characters)
 - Describe how this project/program advances the priority/need identified above
 - What actions/activities are proposed to meet this need?
 - What are the distinctive features of your project/program?
 - What is the timetable?
4. **Is this a collaboration?** (2,000 characters)
 - If so, address the following:
 - Reasoning behind the collaborative solution
 - Exact role partner(s) will play

- Extent to which CFGB funds will be subcontracted to other agencies for support of their collaborative roles
 - Provide documentation of support from partners, specifying their own unique role
 - What other area providers deliver similar services?
 - What coordination has been/could be achieved with these providers? If none, why not?
5. **What are your intended impacts/outcomes? (quantifiable changes preferred) (1,500 characters)**
- How will they be measured (by whom and when)

PROJECT BUDGET

- Provide a very specific complete budget breakdown, identifying costs of the individual items that constitute your funding request to the Foundation (5 MB)
 - If this a multiyear request, each year's budget should be outlined knowing that future years can be altered as project/program progresses
- Budget narrative (optional) (5MB)
- What investment is your organization making in this project/program? (1,000 characters)
- Other funding sources from whom funds have been requested and the status of these requests. (1,500 characters)
- If project/program is ongoing, what are your plans for continuing funding? (1,000 characters)
- Partial funding (1,500 characters)
 - If the foundation were only able to partially fund your request, can you proceed?
 - If yes, how much would your project/program be affected? Please detail

ATTACHMENTS

- Resumes or CVs of project personnel – required (5 MB)
 - At least one, preferably the project director's, must be submitted
- Memoranda of Understanding or letters in support of your project from collaborators or letters from other funding sources who may have expressed interest in supporting the project – optional, but strongly advised (4 MB)
- Recent evaluations of your programs – optional (4 MB)

CERTIFICATION OF GRANT ELIGIBILITY

Board Endorsement

- Certification that the executive director and a board officer have approved submission of the grant request and that all information provided is accurate. (Yes or No)
- List of all board members (4 MB)