

Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Legacy Funds - Frequently Asked Questions

Specifically pertaining to the four areas of interest funds at the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo. For more information about how to apply directly to the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation, please visit <http://www.ralphcwilsonjrfoundation.org/how-to-apply/>.

1. What are the areas of interest for these funds?

Caregivers, Community Assets, Design and Access and Youth Sports.

2. Do these funds have geographic requirements?

The Community Assets fund is limited to Erie County; Caregivers, Design and Access, and Youth Sports are open to all eight counties of Western New York, which is defined as Allegany, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans and Wyoming counties.

3. What size grant can I request?

Grant requests should range from \$10,000 – \$25,000 for Caregivers, Community Assets and Youth Sports. Grant requests should range from \$10,000 – \$50,000 for Design and Access.

4. How do I apply?

We will begin accepting applications on November 2, 2026. Applications are due by 4 p.m. on November 30, 2026. Applications are accepted online only at <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=greaterbuffalo>.

There may be optional meetings for prospective applicants in November 2026. Dates and locations will be announced in late October.

5. May I email or mail my grant request?

No, applications are accepted online only at
<https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=greaterbuffalo>.

6. When are funds available?

Awards from the 2027 cycle will be distributed by May 31, 2027 for projects that begin and end during the time period of June 1, 2027 – May 31, 2028.

7. Will the Fund consider a multi-year request?

No, multi-year grant requests will not be considered.

8. Are municipalities eligible to apply for funding?

For Community Assets: Only organizations with an IRS 501(c)(3) designation are eligible for funding.

For Caregivers, Design and Access, and Youth Sports: Both organizations with an IRS 501(c)(3) designation and government agencies are eligible for funding.

9. Will requests outside of the Fund's areas of interest be considered?

No.

10. Are there restrictions on what the grant can be used to support?

Yes. The Fund will not consider requests for support of endowments; religious purposes; attendance at or sponsorship of fundraising events; partisan political activity; schools not registered with the New York State Education Department; and for actions or activities that take place before the grant funding period.

For Youth Sports, funding will not go towards sports with high concussion risk such as: tackle football and boxing. . The fund will also not consider requests for traditional sporting goods equipment. For those seeking sports equipment, we partner with Good Sports (a national non-profit dedicated to providing brand-new sports equipment to kids in need) and Leveling the Playing Field (who redistributes new and gently used sports equipment to expand access within youth sports and recreation programs). If you are seeking traditional sports equipment for your organization, please see the link for information on how to apply directly to Good Sports or reach out to Leveling the Playing Field at wny@levelingtheplayingfield.org. Please consult with Good Sports prior to submitting your grant request.

11. What do you mean by 'religious purposes'?

Requests that specifically promote religious activities. Applications for programs/projects that do not focus on religion and that are open and utilized by the general community are eligible for consideration.

12. May I submit more than one application to the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation Funds at the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo?

Organizations are limited to one application per funding category, but can apply to multiple funding categories.

13. If I received a grant previously from this fund, can I apply again in a successive year?

Organizations can apply again to the same fund in successive years. However, please keep the following points in mind: these funds were established to reach a wider variety of organizations over time. So, if the fund receives a large number of equally strong proposals, a previous grant may be one factor in the decision to give to another organization.

14. Can my 501(c)(3) organization serve as a pass-through agency for a non-incorporated group?

No, 501(c)(3) organizations may not serve as pass-through agencies for non-incorporated groups.

15. Can my organization apply for a grant from this Fund at the Community Foundation and for funding from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation?

Yes. The purposes of the two funding pools are slightly different. The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Legacy Funds at the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo were established as an endowment to honor Ralph C. Wilson, Jr.'s legacy in perpetuity. The grants made from these funds are distinct from the grants made by the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation directly.

In most cases, the Legacy Funds support localized projects for which a small grant can make all the difference.

The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation aims to support larger initiatives with broad impact and reach with its grantmaking. More information about their grantmaking can be found at: <http://www.ralphcwilsonjrfoundation.org/>.