Community Foundation
for Greater Buffalo

WILLIAM F. THIEL TRUST
2027 GRANT GENERAL INFORMATION AND SCHEDULE

Background

William Thiel was a long-time philanthropist in the Wyoming County area. His generosity through monetary gifts to nonprofit 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 is generally updated every 5 years.

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. Important to the Thiel competitive 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.
    - **If a nonprofit is not located in Wyoming County, the application must outline verifiable and tangible connections to the healthcare community in Wyoming County. This is especially important with nonprofits who are introducing new programs to Wyoming County.**
- Grant review/decisions are made by the Thiel Advisory Council comprised of people who reside in, work in, or have a strong connection to Wyoming County.
- Any one organization may submit one application per year.
- The Foundation will consider multi-year requests for up to three consecutive years of support ***provided they have received funding from Thiel within the past five years. Absolutely no exceptions. Applications disregarding this stipulation will not be reviewed.***
- 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 receipt of funds, apart from multiyear awards.

- The Foundation will allow 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 16, 2026	Application available online
December 17, 2026 @ 4 PM	Application submission deadline
~Mid-February 2027	Grant decisions communicated

Application deadline is December 17, 2026, 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

2027 Thiel Trust Grant Application Questions

- Project name (100 characters)
- Concise one-sentence summary of request (300 characters)
- Date grant required (numeric)
  - *Your application will only be reviewed if this date is on or after March 1, 2027*

- What is your total operating budget for your most recently completed fiscal year? (numeric)
  - *The Community Foundation will also be reviewing your most recent IRS Form 990 online at the GuideStar website. Should there be none listed, we may request a copy of your most recent audit or financial review and its accompanying management letter.*
- What is your mission statement? (500 characters)
  - *Ideally, this is your formal board-approved mission statement that is 1-sentence long.*
- Which community or community's does your organization serve? What would be lost to those communities if your organization no longer existed? (3,000 characters)
  - *Answer both questions. Frame your answer within the context of the community you serve. Only if appropriate, your answer may reference your organizational values of equity around accessibility, race and ethnicity, income levels, gender, etc. The strongest answers will include demographic data on your community/ies served. If you do not track these demographics, please share the reason why, describe any barriers you experience in collecting this information, and tell us what assistance or guidance would help you do so.*
- How does feedback from your community you serve influence your organization? (2,000 characters)
  - *Consider how feedback influences your programming, governance, staffing, and/or other aspects of your organization.*

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- Funding priority your program/project addresses (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
    - Other (Note, above priorities will be addressed first before any other requests are funded)
- Define priority needs - why should this be done? (2,000 characters)
  - What specific funding priority does proposal address?
  - If your request doesn't address a funding priority, please outline what need your request will focus on
  - How many people will be impacted by this initiative?
    - *Number should be realistic and measurable.*
- Provide a description of your work/initiative. (3,000 characters)
  - *If appropriate, you may want to include the following:*
    - *What makes your approach unique?*
    - *How will you engage people? What's the purpose of engaging people?*
    - *Are there other organizations doing similar work in Wyoming County? If yes, how do you complement that project/program?*
    - *What is the timeline of your request project/program?*
    - *If collaboration is a part of this request, provide those details here*
- Who will lead this work? What are their qualifications? Why are they best suited to this work? (2,000 characters)
- How will you measure success? (2,000 characters)
  - *The strongest answers have 2 parts:*
    - *Clear, quantifiable metrics. Ex. attendance numbers, website traffic, retention rate, etc.*
    - *Qualitative metrics. Ex. testimonials from participants, open-ended survey results, etc.*
  - *Bulleted responses are welcome.*

PROJECT BUDGET

- Total cost (numeric)
  - *Provide the total cost of the project/program.*
- Amount requested (numeric)
  - *The average historical grant through this process is in the $40,000 to $50,000 range.*
  - *The total available to grant in any given year is approximately $300,000.*
  - *While we appreciate optimism and understand that funding is difficult to obtain, please be realistic with your request given the average grant*
- Total years of funding requested (pull down menu)
  - *The Foundation will consider multi-year requests for up to three consecutive years of support provided they have received funding from Thiel within the past five years. Absolutely no exceptions. Applications disregarding this stipulation will NOT be reviewed.*
- What will you use the requested funds for? (5,000 characters)
  - *You may answer this question in the text field with bullets OR upload a budget.* (5MB upload) *Click here to download an example and optional template (download available on application) If you choose to use the file download, you must update it.*
  - *Your answer should include the following:*
    - *Type of expenses and cost*
    - *Revenue sources. If the organization is seeking or has received additional funding specific to this grant application, provide the source and amount awarded/pending. This is especially important if your Total Cost exceeds the Amount Request.*
    - *Allocation of this grant dollar request*
    - *Organizations are encouraged to include unrestricted, general operating dollars in the budget to build in your own flexibility.*
- How will this funding support your work? (2,500 characters)
- If the fund were only able to partially fund your request, can you proceed? Which parts of your request would you prioritize? (2,000 characters)
- Upload 1 (optional): You may upload up to 3 pages of materials that enhance the story of your organization and/or supplement the narrative you have already provided. The strongest uploads demonstrate support for your programming directly from your community served. (8MB upload)
  - *Guidelines:*
    - *Examples of meaningful content include photos, videos, testimonials from your community served, participant letters, survey results, media reviews, etc.*
    - *Evaluators will review up to 3 uploaded pages. Evaluators will review up to 3 minutes of video content. If you are uploading a longer video, please specify the 3 minutes you would like reviewed. If nothing is specified, evaluators will review the first 3 minutes. To stay within maximum file sizes, upload a PDF with a link to the video. This PDF counts towards your total of 3 pages.*
- Upload 2 (optional): If partnership is a significant aspect of your application, provide letter(s) of support from your partner(s).
  - You may also use this to provide proof of existing relationships in Wyoming County. (7MB upload)
- Upload a board list with name, employer, and professional position (5MB upload)
- Do you certify that the Executive Director and a Board Officer have approved this grant request *and that all information provided is accurate to the best of your knowledge?* (radio buttons)
  - Yes
  - No