Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo
Verizon Media Community Benefit Fund for Lockport

2020 Schedule and General Information

As the COVID-19 health crisis rapidly unfolds, Verizon Media has decided to respond quickly to address critical community needs through the Verizon Media Community Benefit Fund for Lockport. To do so, this year’s grant process timeline has been accelerated, the grant application shortened, and general operating support added to the funding priorities.

Applicants seeking a Verizon Media Community Benefit Fund for Lockport competitive grant from the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo should refer to:
- Schedule and General Information
- Verizon Media Community Benefit Fund for Lockport Grant Guidelines
- Verizon Media Community Benefit Fund for Lockport Grant Application Questions

Applications will be accepted online beginning April 6, 2020
Application deadline is April 20, 2020 at 4 PM
Funding decisions will be announced in Early May 2020

Applications must be submitted electronically online through the Community Foundation’s Foundant Grant Lifecycle Manager. Only applications submitted through Foundant will be accepted. Visit https://www.cfgb.org/nonprofits/grants/verizonmedia-community-benefit-fund-lockport/ to submit your application.

Please see below for the fund guidelines and an outline of the questions you will be required to address when completing your electronic application.

Amount Available: Approximately $230,000

Complete Application Required: Applications must contain all information requested. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Questions: Grant seekers are encouraged to email or call Senior Program Officer Darren Penoyer at darrenp@cfgb.org or 716-852-2857 ext. 206 any questions related to this application.
Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo
2020 Verizon Media Community Benefit Fund for Lockport Grant Guidelines

Background/Criteria
The Yahoo Community Benefit Fund was created in 2015 as a part of Yahoo’s agreement with the Empire State Development Corporation to establish a customer care and data center in the Town of Lockport. In 2017, Verizon purchased Yahoo and created a new subsidiary called Oath. In early 2019, Oath was renamed Verizon Media. Subsequently, the name of the Oath Community Benefit Fund for Lockport was changed to Verizon Media Community Benefit Fund for Lockport (Fund).

Funding in the 2020 cycle will focus on addressing the community of Lockport’s most immediate needs, particularly in the areas of health, human services, food, and childcare.

The Fund will consider requests that support organizations working in the following five fields of interest:
- Family and Community Building
- Youth Education
- Economic Development
- Environment
- Animal Welfare

Preference will be given to:
- First, to organizations located or providing services in the Greater Lockport area (defined as the City of Lockport and the Town of Lockport).
- Secondly, to organizations located or delivering services in Niagara County.

Grant awards will be determined by the Verizon Media Community Benefit Fund for Lockport Resident Advisory Council (Council) whose members represent various sectors within Niagara County.

Eligibility
- Organizations located or providing services in Niagara County.
- Organizations with Section 501(c)(3) status as determined by the Internal Revenue Service.
- Funds are available for projects or operating costs beginning May 1, 2020 and ending by – April 30, 2021.

Other Matters
- The Fund will not consider competitive funding for:
  - Endowments
  - Religious purposes
  - Schools not registered with the New York State Education Department
  - Attendance at or sponsorship of fundraising events
  - Any partisan political activity. Funds from the Fund cannot be used to support or oppose a candidate for political office
  - Propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation (lobbying)
Projects and activities that have occurred prior to the start of the grant period

- The Fund requires that all successful applicants obtain three bids for any equipment purchases over $5000
- Organizations may only have one active Verizon Media Community Benefit Fund for Lockport grant at any given time

2020 Verizon Media Community Benefit Fund for Lockport
Grant Application Questions

The following questions are provided for your reference when completing the online application:

- Program/project name
- Amount requested
- Field(s) of interest your grant addresses
- Organization’s mission
- One sentence summary of grant purpose
- Geographic area your request addresses
  - Greater Lockport Area
  - Niagara County
  - Both
- Financial background of organization including:
  - 2020 annual operating expenses
  - 2019 fiscal year surplus/deficit

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- Please provide the following information about your proposed project:
  - The situation your project addresses
  - The rationale that supports your request
  - Describe who will benefit
  - Describe how many will benefit and in what way
- Project Outcomes
  - Describe the desired outcomes

PROJECT BUDGET

- Provide a budget narrative. Include all the costs associated with the proposed project.
  - Indicate the program costs that are new to your organization
  - Describe the investment your organization is making in the project/program
  - List other funding sources from whom funds have been requested and the status of the requests
- Provide three quotes for equipment purchases over $5,000

CERTIFICATION OF GRANT ELIGIBILITY

- Certification that the executive director and a Board officer have approved submittal of the grant request and that all information provided is accurate.