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

2021 Schedule and General Information

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 1, 2021.
Application deadline is May 10, 2021 at 4 PM.
Funding decisions will be announced by Late July 2021.

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 call Senior Program Officer Darren Penoyer at 716-852-2857 ext. 206 any questions related to this application.
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). The Fund will consider requests that support the following five fields of interest:

- Family and Community Building
- Youth Education
- Economic Development
- Environment
- Animal Welfare

In addition to the fields of interest above, in 2021 the Verizon Media Community Benefit Fund for Lockport will give special preference to projects that address the following issues:

- Digital Inclusion
- Climate Protection
- Human Prosperity

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.
- Organizations that:
  - Bring new services to or result in better or enhanced services in the Greater Lockport area;
  - Support programs or projects (vs. general operating);
  - Do not duplicate existing services; and/or
  - Are collaborative in nature.

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 beginning and ending during the time period of September 1, 2021 – August 31, 2022.
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 will consider allowing up to 10% of the grant amount for indirect costs.
- 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

2021 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:
  - 2021 annual operating budget
  - 2020 fiscal year surplus/deficit

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

1. 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

2. Project Activities
   - Describe the actions and activities to be undertaken in your project
   - Indicate which actions and activities are new to the organization
   - Provide a time line for implementation
3. Project Implementation
   - Identify the individuals from your organization who will be involved in the project along with each person’s qualifications
   - If applicable, describe how you plan to collaborate with other service providers

4. Project Outcomes
   - Describe the desired project/program outcomes
   - How will they be measured?
   - By whom, how and when?

5. Sustainability
   - Indicate how much it will cost to sustain the project/project outcomes
   - Describe your plan for sustaining the proposed project/project outcomes

PROJECT BUDGET
1. Provide a detailed budget AND 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
   - Identify the percentage of the total project cost requested from the Verizon Media Community Benefit Fund for Lockport
   - 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.
   - List of all Board members.

ATTACHMENTS
   - Resumes or CVs of project personnel – required
   - 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 program/project – strongly advised
   - Recent evaluations of the program/project – optional