

Daniel C. and Beatrice M. Fisher Fund (Fisher Fund) Competitive Process Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Who were Daniel and Beatrice Fisher?

Daniel C. Fisher, MD, and Beatrice M. Fisher were longtime residents of Clarence Center, NY. The two were married in the summer of 1925 and had one son, George Byron, the following year.

Dr. Fisher established his practice in Clarence Center in January 1925 and was very involved in the community during his lifetime. Of his many achievements, most notable are:

- He was key in the decision to locate a branch of Millard Fillmore Hospital in Amherst.
- He was the first president of the Erie County Board of Health when the organization was established in 1947 and served in that role for 12 terms.
- He was also president of the New York State Association of School Physicians and the Medical History Society of Western New York.
- He was on the staff of Sisters, Millard Fillmore, St. Francis, and Lockport Memorial hospitals at various times before retiring in 1971.

The Fishers both had a history of contributing time and resources to the social, professional, and civic non-profits of Western New York with a particular focus on their town of residence.

The Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo is privileged to be chosen by the Fishers to carry on their legacy of community support in perpetuity.

What are the qualifications to apply to Fisher Fund Competitive Process?

For the vast majority of competitive processes overseen by the Board of Directors at the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, applicant organizations must be 501(c)(3) not-for-profits located in or serving one of the eight counties of Western New York: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, and Wyoming.

Additionally for the Fisher Fund, applicants must be located in or be providing services in the Town of Clarence, Erie County, New York. Requests that can't show maximum impact on the residents of the Town of Clarence will be denied.

The Town of Clarence criteria is very specific. Are there exceptions to that?

No, there aren't exceptions. The Community Foundation is legally bound to this geographic stipulation. It is our honor and duty to carry out the donors' wishes as instructed. It's what all community foundations do every day. While many non-profits serve this region by default, know that applications must focus their primary impact on Town of Clarence residents to be reviewed.

We state this to help you, not discourage you. We know your time is valuable. We want to be respectful of your time and make sure you spend it properly on applications that realistically align with your project/program.

What funding alternatives do I have if I can't show impact specific to the Town of Clarence?

As a community foundation, the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo has multiple processes, one of which might align with your needs. All processes open to public application are listed at:

<https://www.cfgb.org/nonprofits/grants/>

Note that timelines between the different processes vary greatly.

Additionally, there are many different regional funders beyond the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo who might provide funding. A suggested resource is the NY Funders Alliance interactive member directory: <https://www.nyfunders.org/members>

What if I don't have my 501(c)(3) non-profit status yet?

We will only process applications from 501(c)(3) non-profits that have received official approval from the Internal Revenue Service by our submission deadline. We will require proof from those that don't come up as valid through our database.

Can I use a passthrough?

While the Community Foundation will allow passthroughs, it's not encouraged. Sponsoring organizations are 100% responsible for any requests they submit as passthrough including the application itself, financial management, all follow up, and reporting.

How do I apply for funding from the Fisher Fund Competitive Process?

You must fill out an online application that is submitted through the Community Foundation's Foundant Grant Lifecycle Manager (GLM). The link to the system is on the Daniel C. and Beatrice M. Fisher Fund Competitive Process webpage: <https://www.cfgb.org/nonprofits/grants/daniel-c-and-beatrice-m-fisher-fund/>

Applications are accepted from mid-August until mid-September. Timelines are subject to change. Only applications submitted through GLM will be considered.

What does the Fisher Fund support?

Dr. and Mrs. Fisher's wills state that this fund annually support: *public educational, charitable, recreational, conservation, cultural, or benevolent uses and purposes as may benefit persons living in the Town of Clarence in the County of Erie*

While the Foundation is open to all funding requests, based on the donors' instructions, and a Town of Clarence needs assessment commissioned by the Community Foundation, preference will be given to requests that:

- Address the needs of the senior citizen population
- Improve the academic outcomes for special needs students
- Improve the natural environment, including matters of conservation and recreation

What's a needs assessment?

A needs assessment is a research report using Census data and feedback from town residents and organizations to determine areas where there are service gaps or a need for improvement in quality of life or other factors.

Does the Fisher Fund award multiyear grants?

We welcome multiyear requests from organizations who have an established grant history with the Community Foundation and can show continuous impact on the Town of Clarence. Please contact Director, Community Impact Darren Penoyer to discuss multiyear requests: 716-852-2857, x206

How much is available to award from the Fisher Fund?

At this point in the fund's history there is about \$100,000 per year to grant out.

What is the maximum amount I can request?

This is a relatively new fund with a short history to reference. However, reviewing 2023 through 2025, the average Fisher Fund award was around \$13,500. The largest grant during the past three years was \$30,000.

We will not award the entire amount to one single organization. We ask you to be strategic with your request.

How many applications does the Community Foundation get for the Fisher Process?

In 2025, 18 applications totaling almost \$250,000 were submitted for consideration.

In the end, how many grants are made?

In 2025, we awarded six grants.

Can I meet with Staff to pitch my idea and get feedback in advance of submitting a request?

No. Due to the Community Foundation's position in the region, the tight timeline, and the sheer volume and unpredictability of the requests, we will not meet with non-profits submitting to this process.

I received a grant from the Fisher Process in 2025. Can I apply in 2026?

Yes. You can submit a request in each consecutive year with the exception of those non-profits who have received multiyear funding from Fisher.

I received a grant from another grant process at the Community Foundation (such as Garman, Wilson Legacy, Niagara Area Foundation, Wilson Arts and Culture, etc.) Can I apply to the Fisher Process?

Yes. Having grants from other funds or funding sources within the Community Foundation does not affect your eligibility to apply to the Fisher Process.

What does the Community Foundation look for when reviewing Fisher requests?

There are many variables, but some general guidelines for staff and board reviewers are:

- Alignment with stated preferences
- Fit with the donor's wishes
- Impact on the Town of Clarence
- Organizational capacity

I missed the deadline to submit an application! Are there exceptions?

No. It's a hard deadline. We work to create a fair, even process and cannot allow exceptions. Non-profits have more than one month to submit. We are empathic that non-profits are very busy, but please submit early and do not wait until the last minute knowing even the best laid plans can go awry.

I was denied! Can I get feedback?

Absolutely! A contact will be listed on the correspondence you received. Please know, our funding is limited and sometimes we sincerely just can't support all the great requests we receive. But if there was a material issue, we will share that information so improvements can be made when you apply next year.