



## Stanzel Family Foundation, Inc. Grant Guidelines

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### Mission

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The mission of the Foundation is to encourage and support an educated and healthy community.

### Vision

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We are active partners in community education and health, empowering generations of engaged citizen philanthropists.

The Stanzel Family Foundation envisions:

A **Healthy Community** where each member is engaged in a voluntary and self-motivated pursuit of a healthy life style through education, accessibility, and programs.

An **Educated Community** of life-long learners where each member is engaged in a voluntary and self-motivated pursuit of knowledge.

An engaged inclusive community that promotes and inspires **Citizen Philanthropy**, love of humanity, through recognition and celebration of people who are living the definition through their generosity, sharing and kindness.



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### Focus Areas

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Grants within any of the following six focus areas will be prioritized:

#### Navigation

- This grant funding area aims to support initiatives that bolster the confidence of individuals in understanding and maneuvering through various systems and accessing essential resources. The goal is to provide targeted assistance and innovative solutions that enable all served populations to effectively engage with and benefit from available services, thereby fostering greater self-efficacy and overall well-being.

#### Access

- This grant funding area focuses on improving access to essential health resources and services for all community members. It seeks to ensure that support is equitable, comprehensive, and integrated, thereby promoting the well-being of individuals, families, and the broader community. The goal is to facilitate inclusive health solutions that address diverse needs and foster overall health and wellness. Specifically, funding will be prioritized for organizations serving seniors.

#### Mental Health

- This grant funding area is dedicated to enhancing access to mental health care resources by supporting collaborative initiatives and sustainable funding strategies that ensure widespread availability and improved delivery of mental health services, ultimately advancing mental well-being across communities.

#### Steam Education

- This grant funding area is aimed at increasing focus on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) education and awareness within the community to foster greater interest and involvement in STEAM fields, ultimately enhancing educational opportunities and community engagement in these critical areas.

#### Career and College Exposure

- This grant funding area is dedicated to empowering young individuals in the community by offering comprehensive exposure to career and college options. It focuses on facilitating access to mentorship opportunities and support systems that enhance their personal and professional development, helping them navigate pathways to success and achieve their full potential.

#### Early Childhood

- This grant funding area is focused on supporting initiatives to foster holistic child development and provide integrated family support, thereby adapting strategies to effectively meet current and emerging challenges in early childhood care and development.

#### Capacity Building

- Capacity-building grants are meant to aid an organization's development at a structural level, increasing an organization's ability to deliver on its mission over time.
- Here are a few examples of the types of capacity building activities that organizations can request funding for:
  - Strategic planning to guide organizational development and services for a two to five-year period.
  - Fundraising development planning to help diversify and expand funding streams and think about sustainability.
  - Upgrading technology and systems to enable staff to work more efficiently.
  - Program evaluation to assess the delivery and impact of programs.
  - Reviewing and updating policies and procedures.
  - Succession planning to plan for future board or staff leadership.
  - Professional development for board or staff to craft a needed skill.



### Additional Considerations

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- Startup organizations are encouraged to apply for **seed funding**. Seed funding plays a pivotal role in fostering innovation and driving positive societal change. This necessary financial backing enables nascent ideas to take root and grow. Furthermore, support at the seed stage can attract additional investment, ensuring the long-term sustainability and growth of these ventures.
- Organizations can apply for grants **year-after-year** but should not become dependent upon such funding. As organizations mature, organizations should be challenged to become self-sustaining. Exceptions can be made if services would be sacrificed due to a lack of financial support, in the event of an emergency.
- Requests should be for **enhancements** to the organization or their programs, not basic needs that should be budgeted for annually.
- Requests from organizations should not exceed **10%** of their operating budget. Requests for seed funding are an exception to this rule.
- Organizations are expected to demonstrate a **diverse revenue stream** from a variety of donors to illustrate community buy-in.
- Organizations are expected to demonstrate **community involvement**, especially by pivotal partners, to ensure the service/program is needed and wanted. Examples might include: volunteerism rates, contributions from the community, or partnerships with other organizations.



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### Eligibility

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- Grants are made in two areas: education and health.
- Grant requests for operating, programming, and capital are eligible for funding.
- Grants are only available to entities serving within the geographic area defined by the Schulenburg and/or Weimar school districts.
- Grants are made only to non-profit organizations that are tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) or 170(c).
- The Stanzel Family Foundation does not fund individuals, political campaigns or endeavors, or programs that require adherence to a particular religious belief or practice to receive services (faith-based organizations serving the community-at-large will be considered).

### Grant Cycle and Review Process

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- For organizations with fiscal years that begin in the fall or programs that run according to the school year, the deadline for applications is June 15. Applications are reviewed in July and funding is awarded in August.
- For organizations with fiscal years or programs that follow a calendar year, the deadline for applications is August 15. Applications are reviewed in October and funding is awarded in November.
- For organizations applying exclusively for capacity building, the deadline for applications is December 2. Applications are reviewed in January and funding is awarded in January.

### Application Process

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- To apply, grantee must obtain the application link by contacting Melanie Ramirez, Program Director, at [melanie@stanzelmuseum.org](mailto:melanie@stanzelmuseum.org) or (979) 743-9119. Applicants are required to submit their application and all attachments online.

### Reporting

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- If funded, grantee will be required to submit a Year-End Report through the online portal or mailed to the foundation. This report must be filed within 12 months after the funding of the grant. The Foundation will not accept applications from a grantee who has failed to file timely status report for a previous grant award.
- Standard measures for the End-of-Year Report include: an expenditure report, demographics of individuals served, outline of funding sources and fundraising efforts, updates on activities and programs, and examples of community “buy-in”.