



COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

PROGRAM GOALS & AREAS OF INTEREST

The Lawton Community Foundation was started in 1999 to improve the quality of life in the Lawton area. The Trustees adopted a grant program to support programs and projects in the Lawton area, which will improve the quality of life and provide opportunities for citizens to improve themselves and the community. Grants of up to \$5,000 will be awarded to qualified nonprofit organizations or entities of state and local government for appropriate projects that have the following characteristics:

- The project should be new or a significant expansion of a current effort that will positively impact the community.
- The project should benefit a broad range of individuals in the community and not be limited to a small group.
- The project should have support from other resources in the community.
- The project should provide a significant permanent program or community improvement opportunity.

PROGRAM CRITERIA AND REQUIREMENTS

The grant program will be limited to organizations in the Lawton area, providing programs primarily for the citizens of the Lawton area. All requesting organizations must be Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3) organizations that are public charities or subsidiaries of state or local governments. No grants can be made to private foundations or economic development organizations. All requesting organizations may only submit one application for each deadline.

The grant request may be for a capital item or program which can utilize a one-time funding source. If additional funds are needed to complete the project, the source of funds must be committed before the award will be made. The project or program must be started within 12 months of the grant award.

Grant funds may be used for construction, purchase of equipment, and contract services directly related to a specific program and other direct program expenses. Grant funds will not be used for an organization's overhead, including salaries. The grant award may restrict funds to only certain costs of a project.

Grants will not be considered for travel by individuals or groups, existing debt or completion of other programs, or underwriting or sponsoring fund-raising events. Narrowly focused scholarships or research projects will not be considered. In addition, activities and facilities limited to participants in a single program are not eligible for consideration. Grants to fund operational expenses will not be considered.

The project should meet the guidelines described herein. There should be goals, specific activities, and a budget including income and expenses and expected outcomes. The Board of Directors of the sponsoring organization should approve the project.