



## Nonprofit Grant Program Policy

**Purpose:** To establish a policy that ensures an accountable, objective, and fair process for submitting, reviewing, and approving nonprofit agency grant requests.

**Policy:** Bladen County Government has no statutory requirement to fund nonprofit agencies. Accordingly, it is the policy of the Board of Commissioners not to provide recurring annual grants to non-governmental agencies, aside from those who provide a vital, contracted service to the County. Notwithstanding the above, Bladen County Government may, when circumstances warrant, elect to provide grants to nonprofit or charitable agencies and/or organizations. In each case, the Board of Commissioners will carefully review the circumstances surrounding the request and determine the urgency of need of the agency's requested assistance and its value to the County.

In each case, the programs or services provided by the nonprofit agency must do one or more of the following:

- Provide a service to the County through means that are more cost effective or operationally expedient than what the government can provide
- Fill in a critical gap that may exist between government services and community needs
- **The appropriation must be used for a public purpose which the County is authorized to carry out in accordance with North Carolina General Statute (NCGS 153A-449).**

### **Procedures:**

#### 1. Application Process

- The application form will be available from the County's website, the Finance Office, and County Manager's Office.
- Nonprofit agencies and charitable organizations that have a compelling need for County funding may complete the nonprofit grant application.
- Applications are made available annually in March and are due back to the County Manager's Office by the published deadline.
- Applications received after the published deadline will not be considered for inclusion in the annual budget for funding in that fiscal year, but will be processed by the County and given consideration by the Board of Commissioners, who may elect to fund grants on an exceptional basis, if the circumstances warrant.
- Submission of a complete and compelling application is no assurance of an appropriation.

#### 2. Review & Funding Process

- Eligible applications will be reviewed by the County Manager and his designees.
- A recommendation for appropriating a recommended grant amount will be presented to the Board of Commissioners for their consideration as part of the annual budget

### **Charitable Contribution Funding Policy**

**Approved March 1, 2021 (Agenda Item 10B)**

- process.
- The County will consider funding on an annual basis only, unless the Board of Commissioners makes an exception.
  - Applications for grants are effective for one year. Each new budget year will require validation and submission for each grant request.

**Funding Criteria:** Applications will be reviewed and recommended for appropriations based on the following:

- Must submit completed application by published deadline
- Must state community need for services and provide a service that meets the descriptions in the policy statement above
- Must state achievable, outcome-based goals and outline a plan to meet goals
- Must not duplicate services already funded by Bladen County
- Must demonstrate diversity of funding sources
- Must demonstrate financial stability

If application is favorably received and approved, a Nonprofit Grant Agreement shall be executed prior to funding the request.

## **Charitable Contribution Funding Policy**

**Approved March 1, 2021 (Agenda Item 10B)**