

Verizon Media Community Benefit Fund for Niagara County – Empire State Development

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Q - What are the Fund's areas of interest?

A – The Fund will consider proposals that advance one or more of the Western New York Regional Economic Development Council's ("REDC") three core enablers as outlined in the REDC's strategic plan, A Strategy for Prosperity: Implement Smart Growth, Foster a Culture of Entrepreneurship, and Prepare our Workforce and/or support any of the region's target industry sectors.

2. Q – In what geographic areas will the Fund make grants?

A – Projects must be located in or provide services to Niagara County. Preference will be given to projects outside the Greater Lockport area (defined as the City of Lockport and Town of Lockport) because the Verizon Media Community Benefit Fund for Lockport focuses on these locations.

3. Q – How much money is available for grants each year?

A – Approximately \$230,000.

4. Q – What size grant can I request?

A – There are no restrictions on the size of grant request; however, the grantmaking model preferred by the Fund is to make multiple grants each year.

5. Q – How do I apply?

A – Application guidelines can be found at:

<https://www.cfgb.org/nonprofits/grants/verizonmedia-community-benefit-fund-niagara/>

6. Q – When are funds available?

A – Funds are expected to be awarded in summer 2021 and be available fall of 2021.

7. Q – Will the Fund consider a multi-year request?

A – No, multi-year grant requests will not be considered.

8. Q – Does my organization have to be located in Niagara County to be considered for funding?

A – No, however, the project for which funding is requested must serve residents of Niagara County.

9. Q – Does my project have to address all three of the Fund's areas of interest?

A – No, it has to address at least one area.

10. Q – Will requests outside of the Fund's three areas of interest be considered?

A – No.

11. Q – Are there any restrictions or things that the Fund will not support?

A – Yes. The Fund will not consider requests for an organization’s general operating expenses or working capital related to a capital project; recapitalization/refinancing; endowments; religious purposes; attendance at or sponsorship of fundraising events; partisan political activity; and activities that take place before the grant funding period.

12. Q – May I submit more than one grant request?

A – Yes, however it is unlikely that more than one request per organization per year will be funded.

13. Q – Are there any restrictions on the number of active Fund grants that organizations can have?

A – Yes, organizations may only have one active grant at any given time.