



**Investing in Vulnerable Populations
Request for Proposals
November 19, 2018**

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF WESTMORELAND COUNTY

Established in 1995, The Community Foundation of Westmoreland County (CFCW) encourages philanthropy, builds a sense of place, and embraces the spirit of community. Having merged with The Pittsburgh Foundation in 2010, CFCW continues to work with county residents to encourage that spirit of giving and investment in community organizations and residents. Our mission is to encourage residents to become PHILANTHROPISTS, to provide GRANTS that support a wide variety of non-profit organizations, and to serve as a COMMUNITY LEADER.

STATEMENT OF NEED

At the heart of our mission, the Community Foundation of Westmoreland County is called to serve the most vulnerable of our population in Westmoreland County. We believe in the value of compassionately supporting our neighbors and ensuring that individuals and families can take charge of their futures. However, one in five residents in this county experience poverty. Poverty is both a product and a consequence of the context in which people are born and live. Living in poverty results in a daily struggle to provide basic needs such as food, shelter, health care, education, internet and clothing. This creates barriers to achieving physical and mental health and well-being, educational attainment, economic stability, and the ability of living a life of choices rather than constraints.

The Working Poor Families Project, supported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, www.workingpoorfamilies.org describes the working poor as those living at 200% of the federal poverty level. In 2018, the poverty threshold was \$25,100 for a family of four. This means that the threshold for a family of four living at 200% of the poverty level is \$50,200. For families living below 200% of the poverty level, meeting basic needs can be a daily struggle. These families can find themselves one paycheck away from losing their reliable transportation to work or even losing their home. These individuals are amongst those we consider as our most vulnerable in Westmoreland County.

According to the US Census Bureau's most recent information for Westmoreland County, 64,991 individuals or 18% of our population lives below 150% of the federal poverty level – a 7% increase from 2000. Additionally, 27% of the population lives at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. With nearly a third of our population in this category, the Community Foundation of Westmoreland County is committed to working with our nonprofit organizations

to find ways to support this population, ultimately promoting a health and supportive community for our most vulnerable.

Locally, county officials and nonprofit leaders report that issues facing vulnerable populations have become increasingly more complex. The intersectionality of issues creates additional barriers that people must overcome. It is not unlikely to encounter a family that is not only living in poverty, but is also dealing with food insecurity, mental health concerns, and addiction. These complex issues call for greater collaboration between service providers, flexibility in delivery, and a multitiered service approach.

INVESTING IN VULNERABLE POPULATIONS GRANTS – OVERVIEW

Investing in Vulnerable Populations Grants is a county-wide grant initiative to provide nonprofit organizations with funding to support the physical, social, environmental and emotional needs of our most vulnerable populations in Westmoreland County. The Community Foundation of Westmoreland County wishes to address the root causes of poverty by supporting long term solutions that assist individuals and families to move out of poverty, assist those with limited capacity, such as low income, underrepresented and vulnerable populations to live with dignity. The Community Foundation of Westmoreland County encourages applicants to propose effective and data driven strategies, as well as creative or new approaches.

The *Investing in Vulnerable Populations Grants* process is a component of the 2018/19 Impact Giving Circle of the Community Foundation of Westmoreland County. Impact Giving Circle participants have donated to this grant process, helping raise the total grant dollars to be distributed to over \$225,000. Grant requests up to \$35,000 will be accepted. The total grant amount requested should not exceed 20% of an organization's annual operating budget.

Investing in Vulnerable Populations Grants – Focus Areas

- Children and youth living in poverty;
- Single caregivers raising children;
- Adults and children struggling with mental health concerns including addiction;
- Individuals reentering society after a period of incarceration;
- Adults and children experiencing housing and/or food insecurity.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Applicants must be a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization serving communities in Westmoreland County.

Examples of eligible projects:

- Afterschool programs
- Access to healthy foods
- Homeless/housing initiatives
- Programs supporting individuals exiting incarceration

- Health/wellness programs
- Employment readiness
- Mental health initiatives
- Programs addressing the opioid epidemic
- Safety net services

Examples of ineligible projects and groups:

- Capital campaigns
- Individuals
- Endowment funds
- Political groups
- Fundraising events
- For-profit entities and businesses

REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

The *Investing in Vulnerable Populations Grants* process is a component of the 2018/19 Impact Giving Circle of the Community Foundation of Westmoreland County. Participating donors will work alongside Foundation staff to evaluate each proposal and make recommendations for funding. Applicants may be asked to meet with Foundation staff and Impact Giving Circle participants to better understand your organization and proposal.

Applications will be reviewed based on the following criteria:

- The project or activity takes place within Westmoreland County;
- Preference will be given to organizations primarily serving individuals living at or below 200% of the federal poverty level as described in the RFP's Statement of Need;
- Project will support the physical, social, environmental or emotional needs of our most vulnerable populations;
- Project is rooted in demonstrable need by data provided in your proposal;
- The quality and potential impact of the proposed project;
- Maximizes partnerships to limit duplication of services through skill sharing, volunteer time, services provided, and the involvement of multiple organizations;
- Organization has provided clear examples of and capacity for tracking measures of success;
- Organization has a track record of success working with this population and the capacity to complete the project as described;
- Budget and timeline are realistic;
- Ability to evaluate the impact and success of the program or project.

Additionally, applicants will be asked to submit the following information:

- Copy of 501(c)(3) designation letter, if applicable
- Current Board Member roster, if applicable
- Proposed project budget
- Copy of 2019 Operating budget
- Copy of latest audit/financial review

IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

November 19, 2018	RFP Released
November 28, 2018 – 9:00am	RFP Information Session #1 Community Foundation of Westmoreland County 951 Old Salem Road, Greensburg, PA 15601
November 29, 2018 – 3:00pm	RFP Information Session #2 – Conference Call Only Call-in Number: 1-877-977-1977 Participant Code: 3138569#
December 7, 2018	Letters of Inquiry Due
December 10, 2018	Nonprofits Invited to Submit Full Application
January 8, 2019	Applications Due
January 14 – March 2, 2019	Site Visits and Interviews
March 11, 2019	Grants Announced

Additional information, including access to the RFP and online application portal, can be found at <http://cfwestmoreland.org/healthy-communities> . All applications must be submitted using the online application portal through our parent organization, The Pittsburgh Foundation. For technical assistance, please contact Allison Womer, CFWC Administrative Assistant at awomer@cfwestmoreland.org or (742) 836-4400.

If your organization is unable to submit the application online because of organizational constraints, please contact Phil Koch, CFWC Executive Director at pkoch@cfwestmoreland.org or 724-836-4400 ex. 125.

Questions

Investing in Vulnerable Populations Grants is a program of The Community Foundation of Westmoreland County. Technical assistance will be available to answer questions about the development of possible proposals or the completion of the application. Please direct inquiries to Phil Koch, Executive Director, 724-836-4400 or pkoch@cfwestmoreland.org.