



## 2022 Visionaries Grant Guidelines

The Community Foundation of Westmoreland County was founded in 1995 by local leaders of Westmoreland County to encourage philanthropy, build a sense of place and embrace the spirit of community. Merging with The Pittsburgh Foundation in 2010, The Community Foundation of Westmoreland County continues to work with county residents to encourage that spirit of giving and investment in community organizations and residents. Our mission is to encourage local residents to become PHILANTHROPISTS, to provide GRANTS that support a wide variety of non-profit organizations and serve as a COMMUNITY LEADER.



VISIONARIES

*Visionaries* is an initiative of The Community Foundation of Westmoreland County... a fresh approach to philanthropy. It consists of young professional leaders throughout Westmoreland County who are committed to making our community a better place. Our mission is to nurture philanthropic leadership among young people through engagement, education, grant making and the development of a permanent endowment to support initiatives throughout the county.

Each year, the Visionaries participate in a series of workshops to learn about challenges, needs and opportunities in Westmoreland County. They also participate in exercises to demonstrate how they can develop their personal philanthropy and give back to the community. With this knowledge, the group selects a focus for grantmaking and issues guidelines to solicit proposals from the nonprofit community. Ultimately, three applicants are selected as finalists, receive a grant and attend a “Pitch Party” where they present their case for funding from attendees made up of organization partners, board members, former visionaries and members of the community.

### STATEMENT OF NEED

The impacts of the pandemic continue to be felt throughout the County. Two areas are of significant concern: **mental health and housing/homelessness**. The Visionaries have identified both as areas of focus for the 2022 RFP.

The country has seen an increase in individuals suffering from depression, isolation, anxiety and post-traumatic stress and amplified other existing mental health conditions. Children and young people are dealing with the effects of being removed from their classrooms, shifting to a new way of learning, being separated from their social networks and fearing the future. Adults are dealing with levels of stress not

felt before from job loss, uncertainty, working in person through the pandemic as well as transitioning back to work. Not to mention the sense of loss felt by all. Adding to the mental health crisis we are facing, is the challenge in finding support given the demand.

The pandemic has also magnified the issues of homelessness and affordable housing. A lack of affordable housing and not enough shelter beds became apparent as individuals lost their jobs and homes. While COVID relief funds have provided temporary support to those facing evictions; we are now starting to see evictions resume at pre-pandemic levels. Individuals suffering from homelessness and a lack of affordable housing tend to also develop mental health challenges, poor nutrition and poor healthcare to name a few. There is an unmet need for housing in our County and we need to address both prevention, intervention and system changes.

### **GRANT OPPORTUNITY**

The Visionaries are seeking proposals from nonprofit organizations with a **budget of \$2 million or less** that address **mental health and/or housing/homelessness** needs of **residents aged 40 and under** in Westmoreland County. **Three organizations will be selected to receive a \$10,000 grant for operating support** and will present at the **November 17<sup>th</sup> Pitch-In Party** to spread awareness of their work and crowdsource additional funding from attendees. Applicants must provide direct services.

### **ELIGIBLE PROJECTS & APPLICANTS**

Applicants must:

- Be a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization serving communities in Westmoreland County.
- Have a budget of \$2 million or less
- Address mental health and/or housing/homelessness of County residents under 40 years of age.
- Provide direct services to clients.
- Attend the Visionaries Pitch Party on November 17<sup>th</sup> at LIVE! Casino if selected as a finalist.
- Use the online portal to apply at <https://cfwestmoreland.org/visionaries>.

Visionary grants will not provide grants to

- Capital campaigns
- Endowment funds
- For-profit entities
- Fundraising events
- Individual business owners
- Political groups
- Religious organizations for religious purposes
- Businesses (direct financial support)

### **REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS**

Proposals will be reviewed based on the following criteria:

- Organization provides direct services in alignment with the eligible projects and applicants criteria listed above
- Offers innovative solutions.
- Demonstrates track record of success.
- Maximizes partnerships whenever applicable.

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

- IRS Determination letter
- Current Board Member roster
- Copy of 2022 Operating budget

All applications meeting the basic requirements will be reviewed by a selection committee comprised of Visionaries.

## **AWARDS**

**Three organizations will be selected to receive a \$10,000 grant for operating support.** Each will present their case for additional funding at the Visionaries “Pitch-In Party” event on Thursday, November 17, 2022, at 6:00pm at LIVE! Casino Event Center. Party attendees can choose to donate money to cast a vote for their favorite pitch, and each presenting organization will receive all proceeds from the voting. In addition, a People’s Choice Award of \$3,000 will be given to the organization receiving the most votes.

Grant recipients must be able to attend the November 17th event to be eligible for funding consideration.

## **IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES**

<b>September 14, 2022</b>	RFP Released/Application Opens
<b>October 7, 2022</b>	Application Closes
<b>October 28, 2022</b>	Finalists Announced
<b>November 17, 2022</b>	Pitch Party/Awardees Announced

The online application portal can be found at <https://cfwestmoreland.org/visionaries>. **All applications must be submitted using the online application portal through our parent organization, The Pittsburgh Foundation.** For technical assistance, please contact Emily Rousseau at [rousseau@pghfdn.org](mailto:rousseau@pghfdn.org)

## **QUESTIONS**

*Visionaries* is a program of The Community Foundation of Westmoreland County. Please direct questions about the grant guidelines to McCrae Martino, Executive Director, at [martinom@cfwestmoreland.org](mailto:martinom@cfwestmoreland.org).