

CPI Charitable Trust Grant Guidelines

Objectives

The CPI Charitable Trust is committed to enhancing the quality of life within CPI's service territory by providing financial support to nonprofit organizations and, in exceptional cases, individual CPI members facing crisis situations. The Trust prioritizes funding for essential needs, as determined by the CPI Charitable Trust Committee through a thorough process of investigation, evaluation, and comparison of grant applications.

Eligibility

Grants are awarded to organizations and programs that serve communities within CPI's service territory, regardless of whether the organization itself is a CPI member. Eligible organizations must meet the following criteria:

- Be a nonprofit entity, typically with tax-exempt status under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3). Exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the CPI Charitable Trust Committee.
- Demonstrate a clear commitment to improving the quality of life in CPI's service territory through programs aligned with the Trust's funding priorities.

Funding Priorities

The CPI Charitable Trust supports initiatives that align with in following priorities:

1. Emergency and Public Safety

Programs and organizations that address urgent community needs and enhance public safety, including:

- Fire departments and emergency responder agencies.
- Domestic violence shelters and support services.
- Emergency housing programs.
- Food banks and hunger relief initiatives.
- Elderly services and care, such as hospice programs.

2. Education and Youth Development

Extracurricular programs and initiatives that foster student growth and well-being, with priority given to projects that:

- Promote leadership, academic achievement, or personal development.

- Address social challenges, such as substance abuse or mental health, or provide essential support like meals and clothing for children.
- Encourage wellness, positive behavior, or community engagement.

3. Economic and Community Development

Initiatives that stimulate economic growth or provide tangible community benefits, such as:

- Job creation or workforce development programs.
- Community infrastructure or revitalization projects.
- Programs that enhance local employment opportunities for CPI members.

4. Environmental Stewardship and Quality of Life

Projects that promote environmental sustainability or enhance community well-being, including:

- Environmental education or stewardship initiatives.
- Programs that improve access to recreational or cultural resources.
- Leadership development focused on environmental or community improvement.
- Animal rescue and services organizations that promote animal welfare within the community.

Funding Restrictions

To ensure alignment with the Trust's mission and responsible stewardship of funds, the following are generally ineligible for funding:

- Political organizations, lobbying activities, or election campaigns.
- Endowment funds or annual fundraising drives.
- General operating expenses, including salaries, utilities, advertising, or start-up costs.
- Capital campaigns or construction projects.
- Scholarship programs or school/sports sponsorships.
- Organizations with national affiliations, unless their local programs directly benefit CPI's service territory.
- Fundraising events or activities.
- Electrical work performed by CPI for organizations.
- Payment of electric bills for individuals.

Exceptions to these restrictions may be considered at the CPI Charitable Trust Committee's discretion, based on the specific circumstances and alignment with the Trust's objectives.

Grant Limits

- **Organizations:** Eligible organizations may request up to \$5,000 per quarterly grant cycle, with a maximum annual contribution of \$5,000 per organization.

- **Individuals:** CPI members facing crisis situations may apply for individual grants, limited to \$2,500 per household per calendar year. Individual grants are subject to rigorous evaluation and approval by the CPI Charitable Trust Committee.

Application and Reapplication

Organizations may submit applications during each funding cycle, held in April, August, and November. Reapplication is permitted; however, prior funding does not guarantee future awards. All applications are evaluated based on merit, alignment with funding priorities, and available resources.