



## How Does the Foundation Decide How to Award Funding?

The Richfield Foundation usually receives requests for at least twice as much money as we have available to give. It is unfortunate that we must turn down some worthwhile applications, and we know that every rejection represents a cost to an organization that is stretched for time and energy. We hope that some additional information will help you decide if it makes sense to apply to the Richfield Foundation and to prepare an appropriate application.

Every successful proposal must meet the basic criteria of benefiting people in Richfield, and fit with our three stated priorities: ***Successful Kids-Secure Families-Strong Community***

Almost every proposal we receive meets these criteria, so we often must choose on relative terms -- how well does the proposal meet these criteria, compared to the other applications.

The Foundation has a Board with different perspectives, and all members have equal opportunity to review and rate the proposals. It can therefore be difficult to predict exactly which application will be chosen for support. However, the following questions or considerations have often surfaced as important:

- Is this project or organization uniquely part of Richfield, or part of a larger mission/service area?
- How much difference will a grant from the Foundation (typical size \$500-\$2000) make?
- What other funding opportunities does this applicant have available to it?
- How likely is it that the applicant will actually achieve the results they are striving for? How important is it for Richfield if they do?
- Is this project or organization connected to other Richfield community services, resources or institutions? Will this grant help create or strengthen any collaborations or cooperation?
- Does this proposal create or strengthen ways for people to participate in community life?
- Has this proposal identified an important new or emerging need in our community, which could benefit from the additional attention that a grant might bring?
- How creative is the proposed solution?
- Will support from the Foundation help grow this idea into something of greater benefit?

In your proposal, we encourage you to highlight any of these questions that relate to your application. Since we recognize that our grants are relatively small, we tend to favor proposals that can have a larger impact than just the modest dollar amount. We hope that our unique focus on Richfield, and our role in the community, can provide additional benefits beyond the funds awarded – for example, attention from civic leaders or connections to other community resources.

You may also wish to review the organizations that received funding last year, available on our website, [www.richfieldfoundationmn.org](http://www.richfieldfoundationmn.org)

If you believe this opportunity is not a good fit, check our website next spring or summer. The Foundation now has a "Big Ideas" grant opportunity that provides matching funds for grassroots groups in Richfield.

Thank you very much for your hard work in making Richfield better, and your interest in working with the Richfield Foundation.