



Central Indiana Senior Fund 2020 Grant Guidelines

About Central Indiana Senior Fund's Grant Making

Central Indiana Senior Fund (CISF) invests in organizations and programs that serve seniors (age 55 and older) who are low- to moderate-income and/or isolated from community resources and opportunities. Our competitive grants enable organizations to provide effective programs and respond to the needs of seniors in the neighborhoods and communities they serve. Eligible organizations serve seniors residing in the Central Indiana region (Marion and the seven surrounding counties). Priority will be given to organizations which did not receive 2019 CISF funding.

Concept Proposal Form – Must be Submitted April 1 – April 30

Organizations wishing to be considered for funding must submit a Concept Proposal through the CICF portal at <https://cicf.smartsimple.com> **between April 1 - April 30, 2020 (due by 4:00 pm)**. When submitting a Concept Proposal, choose the Central Indiana Senior Fund Call Name under Open Call. During the Open Call period, organizations can start a Concept Proposal then finish it at a later date. If an organization does not have a current Organizational Profile, it must either create one or update the Profile in the system before completing the Concept Proposal. An Organizational Profile can be created or updated at any time.

Types and Size of Grant Awards

CISF typically awards grants to provide operating, program and capacity building support. Grant size ranges from \$5,000 to \$50,000.

- Operating – Operating requests are considered up to \$50,000 for organizations whose mission is to serve seniors.
- Program – Program requests are considered up to \$50,000 for senior focused programs.
- Capacity Building – CISF is willing to entertain capacity building proposals from organizations whose mission is to serve seniors or from organizations for which seniors constitute a vast majority of their clients. Organizations wishing to apply for a Capacity Building grant should first contact Julie Koegel at juliek@cicf.org.

CISF reserves the right to partially fund applications.

Criteria Used to Review Applications and Determine Grant Awards

Proven Success

Does the organization's programming have clearly defined outcomes? Has the organization demonstrated an ability to evaluate program success? Does the organization and its programs incorporate best practices in serving seniors?

Strong Leadership

Does the organization have a clear mission and a plan for how it will achieve its mission? Does the organization have the appropriate management and board leadership to provide direction and oversight?

Sustainability

Has the organization demonstrated its ability to attract the resources necessary to maintain its work? Does the organization have appropriate growth strategies? Does the organization have a future plan for sustaining the work of this application?

Effective Operations

Does the organization have the appropriate staff and internal systems to be efficient and effective? Is the organization fiscally responsible?

Engagement

Are the constituents, partners and community leaders informed, involved and invested in the success of the organization's efforts? Does the organization engage seniors in planning and evaluation?

Collaboration

Can the organization bring together the strengths of multiple organizations to advance their mutual goals, share their combined knowledge and reduce duplication of efforts?

Innovation and Creativity

Is the organization creative in addressing the needs of seniors? Is the organization nimble and able to evolve to respond to the needs of seniors?

What We Fund

We make grants to not-for-profit organizations whose work falls into one or more of these areas:

Basic Needs

- Efforts to remove barriers to community resources, such as transportation, access to nutritious food, case management or emergency services
- Efforts that protect seniors from abuse and neglect

Health and Wellness

- Efforts that increase information and access to health care services
- Efforts that provide in-home health care, caregiver support, or low-cost health equipment options
- Neighborhood based, best-practice community wellness and fitness programs

Living Environment of Choice

- Efforts that provide safe and affordable housing and support services
- Efforts that provide home care, maintenance and modification services that enable seniors to remain in their homes
- Efforts that increase the safety, connectivity and accessibility of neighborhoods
- Efforts that strengthen quality residential care programs

Life Affirming Opportunities

- Efforts that increase access to cultural and educational opportunities, work training and placement and life-long learning
- Efforts that increase access to volunteerism and civic engagement
- Efforts that reduce isolation and increase access to community resources

What We Don't Fund

- Organizations that are NOT tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) Public Charity of the Internal Revenue Code
- Grants to individuals
- Political campaigns or activities intended to influence public officials
- Projects aimed at promoting a particular religion
- Construction projects of schools, churches or other religious institutions
- Special events or fundraising activities
- Post event or after-the-fact situations or debt retirement
- Basic medical, scientific or academic research
- Organizations or projects that discriminate based upon race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender or sexual orientation

2020 Grant Timetable

Concept Proposals Accepted	Application Invitation	Invited Applications Accepted	Staff Review	Board funding Decision	Notification
April 1 – April 30 By 4:00 pm	Mid-June	July 1 – July 31 By 4:00 pm	August - October	November	Late November

Review Process

- Interested organizations must complete a Concept Proposal (unless informed otherwise) which will be reviewed by staff and Senior Fund Advisors.
- Eligible applicants will be invited to submit an application.
- CICF staff will review applications and provide additional information to the Advisory Board, which will make final funding decisions.
- Funding decisions will be communicated to applicant.
- Questions should be addressed to Grants Officer Julie Koegel at juliek@cicf.org or 317-293-7006.

**The CISF Advisory Board reserves the right to change these guidelines or to make grants outside of these guidelines if it deems it necessary to meet its mission.*