



## 2020 Interim Grant Application Guidelines

Due to the unprecedented crisis that has impacted our community, the Dunham Fund is reacting quickly with an interim grant application designed to streamline our process and honor John C. Dunham's vision for building a healthy, thriving community with our grantmaking.

### Interim changes to our grant process include:

- Removal of Cycle 2 June 1, 2020 deadline.
- Suspension of Letter of Intent (LOI) requirement.
- Submission of online grant requests that are \$100,000 or less between now and October 15, 2020.
- Emphasis on applications addressing COVID-19 community support.

Through our grantmaking efforts, we support requests for program, capital and general operating dollars – in the areas of Education and Community Development – that positively impact the Dunham Fund service area. Preference is given to grant applicant organizations located in the Dunham Fund service area. Grant applicants outside the service area may also be considered if the project can demonstrate a significant impact within the Dunham Fund's service area.

During this interim grant process, supporting local nonprofit organizations that are serving our community's most vulnerable neighbors is priority. We will continue to consider grants that document a need within our service area, with an emphasis on those requests from organizations that are impacted directly by the COVID-19 crisis.

## The Legacy Continues

Today, the Dunham Fund Board of Advisors honors John Dunham's charitable wishes through grantmaking programs that celebrate education, community development, innovation and collaboration in the Aurora area. The Board of Advisors has established grant evaluation criteria that are unique to the Fund. Those grant proposals that closely adhere to the Dunham Fund's grantmaking areas of interest and application criteria are most likely to be considered for and receive funding.

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## Applying for a Grant

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All applicants for a Dunham Fund grant **must** complete an online application. It is strongly recommended that the grant applicant review this guide and contact the Dunham Fund's Program Director before beginning the online application process at [www.dunhamfund.org](http://www.dunhamfund.org). The guide contains some helpful information about the Fund's grantmaking goals and funding priorities and should facilitate the preparation of materials and gathering of data for online entry.

## Grantmaking Goal

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The Dunham Fund's primary grantmaking goal is to measurably and permanently impact the Dunham Fund service area through support of programs in the areas of education and community development and through capital support. These programs and projects must be innovative, collaborative, and potentially self-sustaining, while being purposefully designed to effect positive change through close alignment with the missions of the grant-seeking organization and the Dunham Fund.

Dunham Advisors do not advocate that the Fund become a permanent source of funding for a program and encourage organizations through challenge grants and matching funds to seek program sustainability from other sources.

## Areas of Interest

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### EDUCATION

Because education is one of the keys to providing individuals with the long term capability to help themselves, the Dunham Fund primarily focuses on education within formal academic settings such as licensed early childhood education, K-12, college, and graduate school, workforce development, and other accredited professional certifications.

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

As a working definition, the Dunham Fund describes community development as the expansion of infrastructure, capital, resources, human capital, or aggregate capability available to the community on a long term basis that provides support for stronger social or economic interaction and performance. Ultimately, a more capable community will provide a more comfortable, safer place to live and prosper.

## Service Area

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Preference is given to grant applicant organizations located within the **Dunham Fund service area**. Organizations outside the service area may apply for grants, but proposed projects must demonstrate a significant impact in the service area. The Dunham Fund service area is defined in the John C. Dunham Trust Agreement as the area in Illinois lying within Kane, DuPage and Kendall Counties that is bounded on the north by Illinois Route 38, on the east by Illinois Route 59, on the south by U.S. Route 34 and on the west by Illinois Route 47, hereinafter referred to as the "Aurora area".

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## Restrictions and Clarifications

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1. During the Interim Grant Process, supporting local nonprofit organizations that are serving our community's most vulnerable neighbors is priority. We will consider grants that document a need within our service area, with an emphasis on those requests from organizations that are impacted directly by the COVID-19 crisis.
2. The Dunham Fund encourages the participation of others in funding projects, and often provides matching funds and challenge grants in an attempt to stimulate increased response from other sources.
3. Grants from the Dunham Fund are generally **NOT** made to:
  - a. organizations who are not based in, or do not have substantial operations in the State of Illinois;
  - b. organizations that are not current with federal, state and local regulatory obligations;
  - c. programs and projects that don't significantly impact the Dunham Fund service area. Example: At least 25% of the organization's participants in the proposed Dunham Fund grant program or project must reside or receive services in the Fund's service area, or a capital project must substantially benefit the service area;
  - d. projects that duplicate existing services;
  - e. any projects or programs that discriminate against race, creed, sex, or ethnic group;
  - f. contingency funds, reserves or endowments;
  - g. provide permanent funding for existing or previously funded programs by the Dunham Fund;
  - h. fund religious organizations or governmental entities.
  - i. pay interest or taxes;
  - j. cover deficit spending or a shortfall in other funding sources;
  - k. obligations previously incurred;
  - l. purchase benefit tickets, respond to telephone solicitation, or national fundraising efforts.

## Thank You

for exploring the Dunham Fund as a potential supporter of your organization's work. We champion the efforts of non-profit organizations that work tirelessly to help all individuals meet their full potential. We look forward to learning more about your organization and your work to impact our community.



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