

## Community and Culture Fund — Grant Guidelines

### I. Purpose and Scope

The Community Foundation's Community and Culture Fund (The Fund) was created to keep Kerr County and Comfort places where residents want to live, work, and rebuild their lives, and where visitors want to return. The Fund will do this by investing in the places and institutions that define Kerr County's identity and sustain its people: the river, parks, and public spaces, along with the arts, schools, and small businesses.

As part of *Rebuild Kerr*, The Fund supports nonprofit organizations that move these recovery goals forward.

### II. Guiding Principles

- **Stewardship:** Ensure transparent, accountable use of philanthropic funds. Every dollar should be traceable to visible, lasting benefit for Kerr County and Comfort.
- **Equity:** Focus on projects that broadly benefit the community, especially under-resourced populations or small local enterprises.
- **Resilience:** Invest in rebuilding that leaves the community stronger than before and supports the environment, arts and culture, and the economy for the long-term.
- **Collaboration:** Execute via vetted nonprofit partners, in collaboration with local governments and community organizations
- **Responsiveness and Care:** Address critical priorities efficiently, ensuring rigorous due diligence and sustained long-term impact.
- **Leverage:** Secure and integrate external capital to amplify local outcomes.=

### III. Funding Priorities

- **River and riparian restoration:** Projects that repair flood-damaged riverbanks, stabilize erosion, improve water quality, or restore ecological function necessary for long-term community and economic health.
- **Park and public-space recovery:** Repair and restoration of parks, trails, open spaces, and recreational areas that anchor daily life, tourism, and civic cohesion.
- **Arts and cultural revitalization** Initiatives that restore cultural venues, revive programs and events, or support practitioners who contribute to community identity and recovery.
- **Community gathering spaces:** Rehabilitation of shared spaces that enable connection, services, and collective recovery.
- **Support systems for community and economic development:**
  - Programs providing assistance to self-employed, micro, and small businesses, as:
    - Technical assistance to help unlock recovery funds and long-term capacity-building, or
    - Financial support to address disaster impacts.
  - Programs that support placemaking.
- **Support for public safety, education, and other civic assets:** Targeted investments that help essential facilities or programs return to full operation when they directly support community recovery and well-being.

- **Community resilience and capacity-building:** Activities that reduce future risk, strengthen local capacity, or help neighborhoods adapt to evolving environmental and economic conditions.

#### **IV. Project Priorities:**

- Restore core community assets.
- New program initiatives or capital improvements directly tied to recovery or long-term community benefit.
- One-time extraordinary opportunities that advance community and cultural vitality.
- Capacity-building tied to program delivery (not general operations).
- Technical assistance programs that help small and micro-businesses.

#### **The Fund will not support:**

- Debt retirement or reduction.
- Fundraising events or galas.
- Political advocacy, lobbying, or religious proselytizing.
- Reimbursement for completed expenses or activities.
- Grants to fulfill government regulatory obligations.
- Ongoing operating costs unrelated to a specific project.
- Regranting to other nonprofits without prior approval.
- Endowments or scholarship funds.
- Lost profits for small businesses.

#### **V. Eligibility Criteria**

To be eligible to apply, an organization must:

1. Be a U.S. 501(c)(3) nonprofit, fiscal sponsor, or equivalent public charity.
2. Be primarily devoted to a charitable, civic, or cultural mission.
3. Serve Kerr County or its directly affected surrounding communities.
4. Demonstrate a track record of effective project or service delivery.
5. Be in good standing with all prior grants from the Foundation.
6. Maintain sound financial management and legal compliance.
7. Not be under investigation for financial or legal misconduct.
8. Not be subject to any pending or ongoing legal or regulatory proceedings that may reasonably be expected to affect the organization's ability to carry out the proposed activities.
9. Provide a clear methodology for verifying that payments cover reasonable and necessary expenses (not lost profits) for small businesses.
10. Reconstruction activities funded through this program must comply with all applicable local floodplain regulations, permitting requirements, and building codes.
11. Projects must be designed and documented in a way that does not jeopardize or duplicate assistance available through federal or state disaster programs. Applicants are responsible for verifying that proposed activities will not conflict with, reduce, or disqualify any potential or pending Public Assistance or other government funding for the same asset or activity.

12. **Public Entities:** Applicants that are units of government must submit a letter of support from at least one member of their governing body. Any award will be contingent on confirmation of full governing body support prior to disbursement.
13. **Data-Sharing:** Grantees must submit progress and final reports, including narrative, outcomes, and financial updates, according to their grant agreements. Future funding will not be considered until all prior reporting requirements are fulfilled.
14. **Engagement:** Applicants must be willing to meet with the Foundation on a regular basis throughout the grant period to share updates, participate in convenings, and collaborate on learning or coordination efforts.

## **VI. Application Materials and Submission Requirements**

Applications must be submitted through the Foundation's online portal at [RebuildKerr](#) and include:

1. Project Budget (including leverage from other sources)
2. Organizational budgets
3. Most recent Form 990 or audit
4. IRS determination letter
5. Board list and key staff bios
6. Timeline or work plan
7. For Public Entities: A letter of support from at least one member of the governing body

Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

## **VII. Review and Decision Process**

All proposals will be reviewed for completeness, eligibility, and alignment with the Fund's priorities. We will accept rolling applications, which will go through staff review, a recommendation by the Community and Culture Fund Advisory Council, and final approval by the Community Foundation Board. Applicants can expect a decision within two (2) months of a complete submission.

The Foundation may request additional information or conduct site visits. Final grant decisions are made at scheduled board meetings. Applicants will be notified of outcomes within one week of board approval.