



Now Allen County nonprofits can

# get stronger, faster



**FOELLINGER**  
FOUNDATION

Now you can apply for funds to strengthen your nonprofit whenever the time is right.

This brochure has all the information you need to submit a Strengthening Organizations grant application.

# now you can apply year-round for funds to make your nonprofit stronger

Opportunities to strengthen your organization tend to arise in unpredictable ways. And when opportunity knocks, you need to respond. So the Foellinger Foundation is introducing a new way for you to apply for funds in the **Strengthening Organizations** category. Rather than being tied to a calendar-based application timeline, now you can apply whenever the time is right for you. Even better, this new opportunity applies to any eligible Allen County nonprofit.

This brochure has all the information you need to submit a grant application.

## Why the change?

The Foellinger Foundation wants organizations to seize upon timely opportunities to make their organization more effective. Such opportunities may arise at any time, so we're keeping the window of opportunity open all the time. We're ready when you are! The Foundation's funds can do more good if they are put to work on a timetable that works best for you.

And remember, while the **Strengthening Organizations** grants previously were for child- and family-serving organizations, the category is now open to all eligible nonprofits.



## Which types of grants are we talking about?

Grants in the **Strengthening Organizations** category improve the organizational effectiveness of your nonprofit. Grants in this category are for one-time projects. This change does not affect other types of Foellinger Foundation grants such as requests for operating, program or capital purposes. Only requests in the **Strengthening Organizations** category apply. Examples of eligible projects in the **Strengthening Organizations** category include:

- Strategic planning
- Board governance
- Staff development
- Strategic restructuring
- Financial planning
- Succession planning
- Research and evaluation
- Technology infrastructure planning

Other projects related to organizational effectiveness may also be considered. Grant funds may not be used for capital, program or operating expenditures, including staff.

## Who is eligible?

Organizations must be Section 501(c)(3) public charities in Allen County or governmental entities for which the purpose of the request is to enhance their operations in Allen County. This grant is open to any eligible organization in Allen County and is not limited to those serving children and families.

## Here's information to keep in mind...

- Eligible organizations may apply for up to \$25,000 in the **Strengthening Organizations** category and generally the grant will extend for no more than 12 to 18 months.
- Generally, subsequent grant applications for the same purpose will not be accepted within a three-year time period.
- Eligible nonprofit organizations may have only one active grant in the **Strengthening Organizations** category. The organization may not request another **Strengthening Organizations** grant until the first grant is completed. This does not affect your organization's eligibility to apply in other grant categories.
- The Executive Director, one member of the organization's Executive Committee and staff responsible for implementation of the project will be expected to meet with Foundation staff to provide any required clarifications. The Foundation will review and respond to **Strengthening Organizations** requests within 60 days of receipt of a completed submission.
- Successful applicant organizations must enter into a grant agreement with the Foundation specifying due dates for financial reports and progress reports.
- Learning and evaluation are critical components of **Strengthening Organizations** grants. You may be asked to discuss your project with Foundation staff and other grantees, who will share their information with you.



## Here's how you apply ...

**Tell us your story! There's no separate application form. Simply provide answers to these questions:**

1. What is the mission of your organization?
2. What process does your organization use to determine how programs and projects align with your mission? Please give specific examples.
3. How does your organization use financial data, including the audit, Tax Form 990, and financial statements, in its decision-making processes? Please give specific examples.
4. What measures were used to determine that the proposed project would strengthen your organization?
5. How will board and staff members participate in the project?
6. If all board and staff members do not participate, how will they be engaged in the project?
7. How will your organization use the project outcomes and lessons learned to improve organizational effectiveness?
8. How will your organization sustain the results of the project over a three-year period?

**Send completed applications to:  
Foellinger Foundation  
520 East Berry Street  
Fort Wayne, IN 46802**

### **In addition, the following attachments must be provided:**

- Please attach a copy of your organization's strategic plan and discuss how the plan is used in organizational decision-making.
- A copy of the organization's final determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service stating that it is a Section 501(c)(3) public charity.
- Most recent tax return Form 990.
- Most recent audit or appropriate financial statements.
- List of members of board of directors.
- At least two resumes of individuals or firms identified to provide consulting services, if applicable, including information about similar services provided by the consultants for other nonprofits. Information on these consultants should cite examples of outcomes of prior similar work including how organizations used lessons learned to improve organizational effectiveness.
- Current year agency operating budget including revenues and expenses and a comparison of budget to actual.
- Project timeline and line-item budget.

Please be sure to answer all the questions and include all the attachments! The idea behind this new grantmaking approach is to help you qualify for funds in a more timely fashion. Incomplete applications will delay the process because such applications will be returned and organizations provided five working days to re-submit materials. Upon receipt of all required information, the Foundation will review the request and respond within 60 days.

**Dear Nonprofit Leader:**

The changes outlined in this brochure were designed to make it easier for you to apply for Strengthening Organizations grants when you need them the most. There is no longer an application deadline, so you may submit it at any time.

Also, more organizations may now apply for these grants because we've opened up the Strengthening Organizations category to any eligible Allen County nonprofit (please refer to our Grant Guidelines at [www.foellinger.org](http://www.foellinger.org) for **complete** information on eligibility).

Please note that these changes only affect grants in the Strengthening Organizations category.



Cheryl Taylor, President



The Foellinger Foundation is a private charitable foundation created in 1958 by Helene R. Foellinger, (right) The News-Sentinel publisher from 1936 to 1980, and Esther A. Foellinger, her mother.

The Foellinger Foundation awards grants to nonprofit organizations that strengthen Allen County children and their families, particularly those with the greatest economic need and the least opportunity. By doing so, the Foundation hopes to help move those families toward greater independence. That, in turn, will strengthen our community.

The Foundation also devotes a significant part of its grantmaking to other organizations in Allen County.



**FOELLINGER**  
FOUNDATION

520 East Berry Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802  
260.422.2900 phone • 260.422.9436 fax  
[info@foellinger.org](mailto:info@foellinger.org)  
[www.foellinger.org](http://www.foellinger.org)