

Grant Making Policy of the Leonette M. and Fred T. Lanners Foundation

Introduction: Founded in 1991, the Leonette M. and Fred T. Lanners Foundation is a small family foundation that supports organizations whose activities are most consistent with the Foundation's mission statement. The purpose of this document is to provide guidelines for grant-making by the Foundation, and to give grant seekers information about what type(s) of grant requests are most likely to be considered. *Nothing in this document shall be construed so as to limit the authority of the Foundation's Board of Directors to make any tax-compliant grant it deems appropriate.*

- **Mission Statement:** “**The Foundation supports charitable organizations whose activities are consistent with our belief in God, Catholicism, Judeo/Christian principles, family, morality, individual responsibility, economic freedom and constitutional government.**”

- **Scope of funding:** The Foundation supports programs in line with its mission that can demonstrate uniqueness in providing a needed service, and defined and measurable goals. Most grants are made to Minnesota based programs. In the Board's discretion, a small percentage of grant money may be allocated to general operating support. The Foundation prefers to earmark grants for specific programs being conducted or to be conducted by grantees. Limited grants may also be made to projects and programs of special interest to the Lanners family. In general, the Foundation **does not** make grants to individuals, endowments, annual fund appeals, political campaigns, capital campaigns, medical research, environmental organizations, the purchase of educational supplies or physical plant used for education, or the arts.

The Foundation prefers to make grants to well-established charitable organizations that can clearly demonstrate current 501(c)(3) status, and which have a demonstrated capability to achieve their own charitable goals, as opposed to start-up organizations whose status and track record is less certain. At the same time, the Foundation also wishes to be innovative and is always open to new ideas. The fact that an organization is small, local, or focuses very narrowly on just one charitable activity will not be considered a negative factor in the Foundation's consideration of a grant request from that organization.

Policy on size of grants, single grants and multi-year grants: The Foundation makes grants to both ongoing programs and finite projects. Proposals should have a timeline for success that is measurable. Although the Foundation tends to make grants to many of the same charitable institutions year after year, continued support may be conditioned upon the organization providing evidence that it has met or exceeded projected outcomes. Typical grants range from \$1,000 to \$10,000. The Foundation has a self-imposed limit

on the total number of grants it makes in any given year, which further limits the availability of grants to organizations which have not received a grant in the past.

➤ **Application Process:**

The Foundation accepts Letters of Inquiry only through its online grants management system, which is accessed at www.lannersfoundation.org. **No mailed or emailed letters, reports, or applications will be acknowledged or considered.**

Letters of Inquiry must be submitted by March 31 of each year in order for the organization to be considered for a grant in that year.

Based on Letters of Inquiry, previous history, and available funds, the Foundation will invite organizations to submit full proposals. **Only organizations that have been invited to submit full proposals will be considered for a grant.**

- **Deadlines, review process, decision timeline:** The Foundation issues grants only once per calendar year. Although letters of inquiry are accepted throughout the year, the Foundation will generally request full proposals in April, and evaluate those proposals for grants within that calendar year. Therefore letters of inquiry received after March 31 in any calendar year, would not have the potential to be considered for a grant until the following calendar year. The board usually votes on grant making issues at its summer board meeting. The Foundation usually makes its grants all at one time in the late summer or early fall. Applicants are typically notified of the disposition of the request within 30 days of the summer board meeting.

➤ **Grant Evaluation Committee Members:**

Carol T. Hockert – Chair
Robert Lanners
Kathleen Carruth
Cynthia Lanners
Laura Seiberlich
Erin Nelson
Jeff Lanners

For further information about the Foundation or its policies, please email us at: alanners@lannersfoundation.org