

Centra Community Grant & Sponsorships Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is the difference between a grant and a sponsorship?

The sponsorship process generally funds one-time events and activities in the community (i.e. 5K's, fundraisers, meetings/conferences, etc.). The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) defines a [sponsorship](#) as one in which the organization making the sponsorship payment does not receive any substantial return other than the use of the organization's name or logo in connection with the activities of the organization that receives the funds (marketing or branding opportunity).

Grants fund ongoing programs that will impact and improve one or more community health outcome. Grants are cash contributions made by Centra to non-profit organizations whose activities and services must result in a specific benefit to the community and include measurable outcomes to demonstrate their impact on the community. These community benefit activities are restricted to one or more of the types as defined by the [IRS Schedule H990](#).

Where do we apply for Grant Funding and stay informed about grants?

Please visit [Centra Health Grants](#) for more information about the grants process.

Where do we apply for Sponsorship Funding and stay informed about sponsorships?

Please visit [Centra Health Sponsorships](#) for more information about the sponsorships process.

Can I apply for both a grant and sponsorship?

Yes, you may apply for both grants and sponsorships that are applicable to your organization's needs and activities.

Can I apply for multiple sponsorships or grants in the same cycle?

If you are planning multiple events, you may apply for more than one sponsorship. There are three sponsorship cycles per year. If for different programs, you can apply for more than one grant. There is one grant cycle per year.

What are the funding priorities for Grants?

Grant requests must address the top 5 prioritized needs identified in the 2024 Community Health Needs Assessment. (<https://www.centrahealth.com/community-resources/community-health#chna>)

We do consider programs of regional importance which address our communities' economic, social and community development needs.

If your area of focus falls under "program of regional importance" and was previously funded by Centra, can I apply again for the same program?

Yes. This also applies to programs addressing the top 5 prioritized needs previously funded by Centra.

Will you fund a non-federal match required by a federal grant?

Yes we will consider funding a match if you can verify that you have received the federal grant.

How much is a typical award amount?

There is no minimum or maximum funding level for which you may apply for grants or sponsorships. Grants and sponsorships are funded in accordance with available resources based on an objective review process. We ask you to apply for what you think is realistic to support the needs of your program and the needs of the community.

How long do we have to spend down grant funds?

During the funding project period which is from October 1 to September 30.

Will Centra fund general operating expenses of programs with grants?

We consider supporting a portion of general operating expenses related to your program. Please be sure to show other sources of funding for your project. Please explain this clearly in the Budget Narrative section.

Are indirect costs considered allowable or disallowable in the Community Grant proposal?

Indirect costs are not allowed.

How will I know if my application has been awarded?

You will receive an automated email with an update by September 30. The notice of funding will be sent to the organization's Executive Director/CEO by email. The grant writer or other point of contact for the organization will be notified via the grants portal and must log in to receive the notification.

I didn't get my application submitted in time; is there a grace period?

No, we cannot accept applications submitted after the due date. Please be sure to start your application early and contact us with any issues to ensure a timely submission. If you do not submit your application on time, you may submit it in the following cycle.

Is it possible to access or review previous grant applications that have been funded in the past?

No, we do not make these applications public. If you want to view a successful application, please contact an organization directly if you are aware that they have received Centra funds in the past. You can also contact us, and we can refer you to an organization.

As a reminder, please download a copy of your application once it is completed in the portal for future reference.

Do I need a recommendation letter of support for a sponsorship and/or grant application?

You do not need a letter of support for a grant application but currently required a letter for sponsorships.

My organization is a small non-profit and cannot afford a financial audit; can I still apply for a grant?

A third-party financial audit or financial review is a basic nonprofit accountability standard and is expected for those requesting funding through Centra's grants process. We recognize that an audit can be a financial burden on smaller nonprofits; however, a financial review can be performed at a fraction of the cost of an audit. For more information regarding independent audits versus an independent financial review, please go

to <https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/nonprofit-audit-guide/need-independent-audit>.

I can't log into the portal; what do I do?

Please contact us to resolve the issue. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at communityhealthgrants@centrahealth.com for Grants. For Sponsorships, contact us at communityhealthsponsorships@centrahealth.com.

I can't get the portal to work; can I email or mail in my application?

We cannot accept applications that are not submitted through the portal. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at communityhealthgrants@centrahealth.com for Grants. For Sponsorships, contact us at communityhealthsponsorships@centrahealth.com.

I don't have a non-profit, but I am still doing charity work. Can I apply?

No, per IRS guidelines, Centra cannot fund organizations or groups that are not 501(c)(3) or have other tax-exempt status.

If our organization is not yet a 501c3, but we have a 501c3 fiscal sponsor, are we eligible to apply (or have our fiscal sponsor apply on our behalf)?

Yes, but the fiscal sponsor must apply on your behalf.

Do I need to register with Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS)?

Yes, this is a mandatory requirement in the state of Virginia for fundraising.

Where can I find the initial request to register with VDACS?

Fill out Form 102 at [Form 102](#).

Do I need to prove that I am exempt?

Yes, an exemption letter must come from VDACS ([VDACS Exemption Letter](#)).

Where can I find further detailed information on VDACS guidelines?

The Virginia Solicitation of Contributions Law (VSOC) requires charitable organizations, except as otherwise provided for in the VSOC, which intends to solicit contributions within the Commonwealth of Virginia or have funds solicited on its behalf, is required to file an initial registration statement with the Office of Charitable and Regulatory Programs (OCRP) prior to any solicitation. Please refer to www.vdacs.virginia.gov/food-charitable-solicitation and § 57-49.