



## **Morris Bank Community Foundation Grant Guidelines**

### Overview

The minimum grant amount is \$500. The maximum grant amount is \$15,000.

Organizations must submit an online application to be considered for funding. We will have three open application periods so that we may help non-profits throughout the year. Dates will be announced as needed.

Applications will be reviewed in the order in which they are received and you will be notified if your organization has been chosen. If you do not receive a grant in one open period, you are welcome to reapply in a future grant period. Grant funds must be used for the sole purpose stated on the approved application.

### Eligibility Checklist

- Funds must benefit within Morris Bank's service area: Laurens, Wilkinson, Jones, Bulloch, or Houston County.
- Items to be considered for funding must be tangible\*. This includes items such as equipment, materials, and/or structural in nature. Funding cannot be used for a 'service' of any kind which includes professional fees, salaries, programs, or any other nontangible item.
- Grantees should be nonprofit organizations with programs that benefit communities within this service area.
- Organizations must be described as one of the following:
  - An organization holding a current tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3), (4) or (19) of the Internal Revenue Code
  - A recognized government entity: state, county or city agency, including law enforcement or fire departments, that are requesting funds exclusively for public purposes
  - A K-12 public or private school, charter school, community/junior college, state/private college or university
  - A church or other faith-based organization with a proposed project that benefits the community at large

### Selection Process

- Morris Bank Community Foundation's Board of Directors will review the application and make initial funding recommendations on all submitted requests.
- Morris Bank Community Foundation's Board of Directors will set the frequency and process in which applications are reviewed. However, applications are typically reviewed within 90 days of the submission date.
- Organizations will be notified of any decision via e-mail. All funding decisions are final.
- If an organization is approved, grant checks will be mailed directly to the recipient organization at the address listed in the grant application. Please allow 2 to 4 weeks for delivery.
- In the event of being awarded a grant, organizations should contact the Morris Bank Community Foundation to schedule a formal recognition event.
- The Morris Bank Community Foundation recognizes that there are many organizations doing great work in our communities. However, the requests we receive may exceed our annual charitable giving budget. Should we decline support to a worthy organizations and/or program, such a response does not reflect a negative appraisal of the applicant organization or the value of its services.
- The Morris Bank Community Foundation will follow-up with granted funds to review proper use of allocated dollars. Organizations have 6 months to complete projects/purchases as presented.

### Funding Exclusions

- Athletic sponsorships (teams/events)
- Capital campaigns and endowments (defined as any plans to raise funds for a significant purchase or expense, such as new construction, major renovations or to help fund normal budgetary items)
- In-kind donation requests, including requests for gift cards
- Nationally sponsored organizations: American Cancer Society, American Diabetes Association, American Heart Association, Children's Miracle Network and United Way (Local chapters of nationally-sponsored organizations where funds benefit the local community only may be considered)
- Organizations that deny service, membership or other involvement on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, sexual orientation, age, national origin, ancestry, citizenship, veteran or disability status
- Organizations or programs that do not benefit the communities within the Morris Bank Community Foundation service area: Laurens, Wilkinson, Jones, Bulloch, and Houston Counties.
- Organizations whose programming or policies may position Morris Bank or the Morris Bank Community Foundation in a negative light
- Organizations whose services do not benefit the community at large
- Political causes, candidates, organizations or campaigns
- Requests made solely to benefit one person or family
- Salaries, stipends, tips, rewards, membership fees or registration fees

- Scholarships to individuals (tuition, room, board, other expenses for college/university/vocational school attendance)
- Travel or conference expenses for non-profit personnel
- Multi-year funding requests or programs that have been awarded funds from the Morris Bank Community Foundation within the last two calendar years.
- Tickets for contests, raffles or any other activity with prizes

*\*Tangible – received by touch; an item capable of being identified appraised at an actual or approximate value*