

M.B. & Edna Zale Foundation

Grant Guidelines

OUR MISSION

To support individuals and families as they build productive and meaningful lives.

WE VALUE

- The legacy of M.B. and Edna Zale
- Jewish identity, heritage, and Tikkun Olam*
*Hebrew: “Repair the world” – Humanity’s shared responsibility to heal, repair, and transform the world.
- The power of community
- The diversity and passion of our family members
- The creativity and dedication of our nonprofit partners

WE FUND

- Education
- Early childhood development
- Job training
- Hunger and homelessness relief
- Health care
- Jewish culture and continuity

In geographic areas where members of the Foundation family live, work, or have interests.

VERY IMPORTANT NOTE: We have implemented some critical changes to our funding priorities. We have moved to a model where the engagement of Foundation family members in the work or cause of an organization is an overarching requirement for funding. That said, if none of our family members are involved with your organization, funding is unlikely.

Priority is given to programs and organizations that:

- Promote organization or personal self-sufficiency.
- Are innovative approaches to solving social problems.
- Articulate clear outcomes and are accountable for them.
- Can be replicated or scaled for larger impact.

The Foundation encourages:

- Requests for programs and projects, rather than ongoing operating support.
- Programs that include an element of collaboration or the possibility of using other community support.

The Foundation does not ordinarily provide:

- Major support for the arts.
- Grants to individuals.
- Scholarships and fellowships to individuals (except through colleges and universities).

Important note:

The Foundation requires an independent financial audit from non-profit organizations with annual budgets that exceed \$500,000. An organization with a budget less than \$500,000 is only eligible to apply for a maximum grant of \$5,000.

Start-up organizations in the first 1-2 years of operations, with no audit, will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

HOW TO APPLY

**NOTE: LETTERS OF INQUIRY FOR THE SPRING 2024 BOARD MEETING
MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS (5 PM CST)
DECEMBER 29, 2023.**

Before sending a Letter of Inquiry to the M.B. & Edna Zale Foundation, do you meet the criteria explained in the above guidelines? If so,

Do...

Email a one-page letter that:

- Briefly describes the program or project, its objectives and expected measurable results. See Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for additional guidance.
- States the dollar amount requested.
- Briefly describes the strengths the organization brings to the program.
- Includes proof of 501(c)(3) status.

Don't...

- Send requests for grants to an individual.
- Send requests for major support for the arts.
- Send requests for individual scholarships.
- Send lengthy bios of the people involved or a history of the organization.
- Send more material than we request.

And...

Please wait for us to contact you. Grant proposals are taken under consideration twice yearly. After reviewing your Letter of Inquiry, if the Foundation is interested, you may receive a request to submit additional details or supporting materials.

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