

Calico's Community Choice

Your Voice: Your Budget

Eligibility Criteria:

1. **Benefit to the Wide Community:** Your group's project or initiative must clearly and tangibly benefit the wider community, extending beyond individual or select group benefits.
2. **Low or No Cost to Service Users:** The services or programs offered by your group should ideally be low or no cost to service users. If there are associated costs, specify how the funds will be used and why they are necessary.
3. **Eligible Categories:** Your group's project or initiative should fall under one of the following categories:
 - **Physical Health:** Projects promoting physical well-being, fitness, or health.
 - **Mental Health and Well-being:** Initiatives supporting mental health, emotional well-being, and resilience.
 - **Education:** Programs enhancing education, learning, or skills development.
 - **Outdoor Spaces:** Projects related to the improvement, maintenance, or use of outdoor spaces.
 - **Environmental:** Initiatives focusing on environmental conservation, sustainability, or awareness.

Note: The funds are not intended to cover the costs of bills or building maintenance.

Additional Requirements:

Detailed Alignment with Eligibility Criteria:

Clearly articulate how your project aligns with the eligibility criteria, including benefiting the wider community, low or no cost to service users, and falling under specified categories. Provide specific examples and explanations to demonstrate this alignment.

Budget and Timeline:

1. **Budget:** Create a comprehensive budget itemizing all expected expenses related to your project. Ensure transparency in detailing how each requested dollar will be spent.
2. **Timeline:** Present a detailed timeline outlining the project's milestones, start and end dates, and the expected timeline for specific activities or phases.

Calico's Community Choice

Your Voice: Your Budget

Impact and Sustainability:

1. **Impact:** Clearly define the expected impact of your project on the community. Explain how the project will benefit community members and provide measurable goals and outcomes.
2. **Sustainability:** Describe the plan for sustaining the project beyond the initial funding period. Include strategies for continued community engagement, financial sustainability, and long-term success.

Compliance with Deadlines and Requirements:

Adhere to all application deadlines and guidelines provided by the funding organization. Submit the application and any required documentation in a timely manner.

Evidence of Spending and Impact:

Ensure you have a system in place to track and document fund usage and community impact. Be prepared to provide evidence, such as financial records, reports, and testimonials, demonstrating how funds were spent and their positive effects on the community. In addition to this incorporate a step for clear communication with the funding organization throughout the year. Provide updates quarterly, including pictures and information on the impact of the funds, and be prepared for face-to-face visits.

Purpose:

Clearly define the purpose of the funds, explaining how they will be used and the expected impact.

Budget:

Provide a detailed budget outlining how funds will be allocated. Include a breakdown of expenses and sources of funding, including any contributions or matching funds from your organization.

Timeline:

Describe the timeline for the project or initiative, including start and end dates and major milestones.

Calico's Community Choice

Your Voice: Your Budget

Impact:

Explain the potential impact of your project or initiative, detailing how it will benefit the community, organization, or target audience. Provide measurable goals and outcomes.

Capacity:

Demonstrate that your organization or team has the capacity to successfully implement the project by sharing qualifications, experience, and expertise.

Sustainability:

Address how the project will be sustained beyond the initial funding period, assuring funders of a lasting impact.

Reporting and Evaluation:

Outline how you will report on fund usage and project progress. Include a plan for ongoing evaluation and assessment.

Alignment with Fund Goals:

Ensure your project aligns with the goals and priorities of the fund or organization you are applying to. Tailor your application to demonstrate this alignment.

Documentation:

Provide all required documentation, such as financial statements, organizational bylaws, letters of support, and any other materials specified in the application guidelines.

Compliance:

Ensure your application complies with all applicable laws and regulations, including tax-exempt status for non-profit organizations or other legal requirements.

Application Deadline:

Be aware of the application deadline and submit your application on time, as late submissions are often not considered.