



TRACY FAMILY FOUNDATION

Capacity Building Program

Request for Proposal

Fundraising 101

Opportunity for Organizations in West Central Illinois

The Tracy Family Foundation seeks Capacity Building Grant Applications from nonprofit organizations looking to create a fundraising strategy to better fund their operations, thereby maximizing community impact. Nonprofit organizations serving West Central Illinois in the counties of Adams, Brown, Cass, Greene, Hancock, McDonough, Morgan, Pike, Scott, or Schuyler are eligible to apply. Funds will be awarded to six eligible nonprofits. Successful applicants will receive a grant of \$5,000 to participate in this training and coaching series. A 10% matching cash contribution of \$500 is required from applicants. Grant and matching funds are to be used as follows: \$3,500 toward workshops and coaching fees and up to \$2,000 to support fundraising infrastructure (donor management software, marketing materials, etc.).

Purpose:

Many small organizations start up with the intention of bringing their unique passions, visions, talents, and skills together to make the world a better place. However, the most challenging aspect for those organizations is often funding. Specifically, how do small nonprofits develop sustainable fundraising systems to support their respective missions? Often, leaders of these organizations are already busy with management of basic operations, leaving little time for fundraising. This training and coaching series will help nonprofit leaders develop an overall strategy and create a fundraising plan that fits their organization's unique circumstances.

Program Description:

Selected nonprofit organizations will gain essential tools and knowledge to better fund their operations and bring their gifts of service to the community.

The program will provide:

- Initial meetings with leaders from each organization to identify and assess current fundraising systems and practices.
- Two workshops covering the essentials of fundraising, systems, strategies, best practices, challenges, and solutions.
- Assistance with the development of a customized fundraising plan.
- Individualized coaching as needed to best meet each organization's needs (any remaining coaching hours must be utilized by August 31, 2024).

About the Coaches:

John Curtis is a teacher, community organizer, nonprofit leader, and a gardener/farmer. He is the founder and director of the Giving Gardens in Macomb and is a past member and president of the board of Illinois Stewardship Alliance. John served in the United States Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic.

K. Mauldin-Curtis (KMC) leads program development, community outreach, volunteer engagement, and capacity building efforts in rural communities throughout Illinois. She directs the Fellows Program in Community Development, at Western Illinois University, and served in the United States Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic.

Readiness Factors:

- > Identify a *minimum of two* dedicated board, staff, or super volunteers ready to commit to this process (approx. time commitment is 40 total personnel hours over the scope of the 5-month project).
- > Availability to attend two workshops in-person at the Quincy Public Library:
 - 1) March 15th 9:30am-12:30pm
 - 2) May 31st 9:30am-12:30pm
- > Capacity to manage/share digital files and communicate electronically.

How to Apply

Nonprofit organizations must submit a Capacity Building Grant application to the Tracy Family Foundation by February 9, 2024, at <http://tracyfoundation.org/apply>. If approved, grant payments are issued approximately 30 days after the Capacity Building Grant approval. A Final Impact Report will be due within one year of the grant award. This application does not affect your organization’s ability to participate in any other TFF grant programs, including TFF’s Formal Funding grant program.

Important Dates:

Grant Application Due	Decision Announced	Program Start Date
February 9, 2024	February 16, 2024	March 15, 2024

Questions?

Please contact Callie Niederhauser at callie.niederhauser@tracyfoundation.org. You can discover more about the Tracy Family Foundation at www.tracyfoundation.org.

About the Tracy Family Foundation

The Tracy Family Foundation (TFF) was established in 1997 by the Robert and Dorothy Tracy family to advance innovative, collaborative, and sustainable change in Brown County, Illinois, and the surrounding region through organizations that share the values of family, faith, education, leadership, and community. TFF seeks to cultivate a philanthropic spirit in all generations of the Robert and Dorothy Tracy family by providing opportunities for the family to give and serve together. Find out more at www.tracyfoundation.org.