



FRED L. EMERSON FOUNDATION

GRANT GUIDELINES

Background:

Since 1932, the Fred L. Emerson Foundation has provided support to the core community organizations of Auburn, New York and the surrounding central New York area where its founder, Fred L. Emerson, lived and worked.

Mr. Emerson served as president of Dunn & McCarthy, Inc., a manufacturer of fine women's shoes based in Auburn. In 1932, Fred Emerson established a foundation to institutionalize what had become a personal tradition of quietly investing in individuals and his community.

The Foundation's mission is: *To continue the work of Fred L. Emerson, who invested in individuals and the community with such humility that very few people knew how many lives were impacted by his generosity. As a family foundation controlled by his descendants, we continue his work by being especially vigilant investors in selected organizations where we believe we can make a critical and significant difference.*

Today, 4th and 5th generation descendants of F.L. Emerson are actively engaged in setting the grantmaking priorities of the Foundation.

Priorities:

The philanthropic focus of the Foundation has remained true to the interests and values of its founder. The Foundation's grantmaking is focused on Auburn and the surrounding central New York area.

We offer the following guidance to organizations seeking our support:

- The Foundation provides support to a wide array of qualified organizations. We do not allocate our funding based upon predetermined categories (e.g. education, youth, etc.). Rather, our grantmaking is responsive to those opportunities that present as the most compelling, impactful, and/or sustainable.
- We are particularly interested in innovative projects and initiatives that address an identified need and have the potential to achieve outcomes that can be replicated.
- We prefer to support projects that involve other funders. From our perspective, multiple funding partners can help ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of a project.
- We are interested in projects that can be shown to maintain or improve the sustainability of an organization.

- We seek proposals that address the highest priority of an organization and where it can be shown our investment will make a critical and significant difference.
- We do not make grants to individuals or for-profit organizations, and we do not sponsor fundraising events or political activities.
- In addition to capital and programmatic support, proposals may be considered for unrestricted funding.
- The Foundation has a long tradition of supporting private higher education in Upstate New York. This continues to be of interest to the Foundation, but with a narrowed focus on higher education initiatives that meaningfully and directly impact the Auburn community.
- Grant recipients will be expected to provide the Foundation with an evaluation report upon completion of the project for which funding was provided. This report requests information regarding the specific impact of the project, how our grant helped leverage additional funding/establish new partnerships, benefits and challenges experienced during the project, and an updated income and expense budget. Interim reports may also be requested on a case-by-case basis.

To Submit a Proposal for Our Consideration:

Proposals are accepted and considered on an ongoing basis.

Proposals should include a statement or letter of support from your organization's president or chief executive officer.

All proposals submitted for consideration must be completed through the Foundation's Online Application portal.

More information at: www.emersonfoundation.com

A copy of our annual 990-PF can be viewed online at: www.guidestar.org

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