Field of Opportunities - Guidelines and Application

Program Objectives

The Field of Opportunities (FOO) initiative is designed to help improve quality of life in the rural and urban community of Kindersley and region by raising capital to be used for community projects centering on arts, culture and recreation. The Field of Opportunities committee will provide grants to community initiatives that focus on:

1. enhancing the quality, accessibility and use of community facilities/infrastructure;
2. assisting projects which are seeking additional funds to complete the next phase of their project;
3. assisting projects which have generated preliminary funding and are seeking additional funding;
4. building community pride, encouraging volunteerism and community involvement;
5. engaging young people as leaders in community activities.

Eligible Projects

Proposed projects must be local to the area in scope and must meet the grant program objectives and criteria.

Projects must begin after notification of approval by the FOO committee and will not be funded retroactively. The FOO is not responsible for any costs incurred by the applicants for projects that begin prior to notification of the FOO committee's decision. Notification is provided within approximately eight weeks after each application deadline.

A priority of the FOO committee is to fund projects that will leave a legacy for future generations to utilize and enjoy for numerous years. Eligible projects must have a strong community focus and be able to be used by various groups and ages.

Eligible projects will need to match or show proof of access to additional funding which will enhance the funds granted by FOO.

Only one application per project or event will be considered.

Grant Levels

- Grants, sponsorships, donated goods and services, in-kind contributions and self-generated revenues may be considered as eligible additional funds.
- The amount allocated for each project may be less than the amount requested. It is based on merit assessed against the grant criteria, the number of requests across the urban and rural residents of Kindersley and region.
- The FOO committee reserves the right not to allocate any or a portion of funding in any given year.

Application Deadline

There is one deadline each year: December 1st

Application Process

One completed copy of the application can be sent to Field of Opportunities c/o Eric Friesen, Box 2170 Kindersley, SK S0L 1S0 or delivered to Moody's Equipment, Kindersley attention Eric Friesen or Brenda Burton G3 Prairie West. Emailed copies may be sent to: eric@moodysequipment.com or brenda_burton@g3.ca All questions must be answered or your application will be considered incomplete and ineligible for funding. Questions about the application or process can be addressed by contacting: Eric Friesen 306 463-2335 or Brenda Burton 306 932-7272.

Grant Review Process

The FOO committee receives and reviews each application to confirm that basic eligibility requirements have been met.

Each application proponent will receive written notification of the outcome of their funding request within 8 weeks of the application deadline.

Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed using the following criteria:

a) **Objectives:** The project must support a minimum of three of the five program objectives (see page 1 of the Guidelines)
b) **Financial & Infrastructure**: priority consideration will be given to project and or groups with financial contributions
c) **Community support**: The project has broad community support and partnership to ensure successful delivery and participation in the project. Support may include donations of goods and services, sponsorships, volunteer time, financial contributions from the community and partners. Letters of support from project partners detailing their contributions must be included with the application.
d) Project effectiveness: The project plan is well defined and achievable, will involve and benefit a significant number of individuals in the community, will preserve and/or promote activities across a broad spectrum of ages, will result in long-term benefits and enhanced quality of life.
e) Project integration and coordination: The project is integrated or coordinated with other community initiatives of a similar nature offered with the same area of region to maximize outcomes. This may include partnerships between two or more organizations of community groups.
f) Community leadership: The project is community based and developed with the input of community members to address community identified needs. Community needs are identified through research, consultation and planning with community members. Where possible, there is active involvement in the development, management and delivery of the projects by community members including community groups and volunteers as well as by those to whom the projects are intended to benefit. Projects that increase our community's leadership capacity and create a sense of community drive and spirit are encouraged.

g) **Funding sustainability**: Project funding is not intended to support on-going initiatives and should not create unsustainable long term costs for applicants, including but not limited to operation and maintenance costs.

h) **Scope and impact**: The scope and impact of the project in terms of long term benefits or legacy that the project will create.

i) **Capital projects**: The project will contribute to the sustainability of community arts, culture and recreation programs and activities. The plan ensures safe operation standards that comply with all applicable building codes and local bylaws. Renovation and rehabilitation projects will improve the condition and extend the useful life of buildings, structures or landscapes. The facility is multi-purpose, serving a range of community needs in the areas of art, culture and recreation.

j) **Community Pride projects and events**: The project contributes to community members' increased involvement, pride and sense of belonging with their community. The project promotes arts, culture and recreation and improves quality of life. Leadership development of individuals, organizations and communities is supported and enhanced.

Funding Obligations

Successful applicants will be required to provide confirmation of funds prior to release of their initial grant payment. Projects must be completed within 12 months of the FOO committee's notification of approval of the grant.

Extensions may be allowed by the FOO committee upon receiving a written request for consideration of such extension from the applicant prior to the originally stated project completion date.

Successful applicants must submit a final Project Report to the FOO committee with 60 days of the project completion. A Project Report form will be provided to all successful grant recipients along with their initial payment. Total initial grant payment to be determined by the FOO committee. The remaining balance will be released pending receipt and acceptance of the final report. The FOO committee will confirm whether the funding obligations have been met and will inform the organization in writing that the report has been accepted or if there are outstanding issues to address.

Organizations must submit a photocopy of receipts and records of expenses.

Unused FOO funds, or funds used for purposes other than what was approved, must be returned to the FOO.

All grant recipients are required to acknowledge the Field of Opportunities as a supporter of their activities.

Application Guidelines

Application guidelines and forms are available from:

Eric Friesen – Moody's Equipment email - eric@moodysequipment.com phone 306 463-2335
Brenda Burton –G3 - Prairie West – brenda_burton@g3.ca 306 932-4446