



GRANT GUIDELINES

Rocky Community Improvement Fund and the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation of Nelsonville

2025 Spring Funding

Grant applications are welcome from any 501c3 organization, government agency, or those who have a fiscal sponsor agreement with a 501c3 organization.

Priority will be given to projects that:

- Comply with the mission and values of RCIF, the Athens County Foundation, and the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation of Nelsonville
- Incorporate new approaches to current or emerging needs
- Encourage cooperation among organizations and avoid duplication of services
- Show the organization's ability to leverage additional funds

Generally, grants are not made to or for:

- Individuals
- Endowments
- Budget deficits
- Scholarships
- Religious purposes
- Political or legislative action groups
- Support or promotion of specific points of view on right-to-life and pro-choice issues
- Annual fundraising drives

Applications can be submitted by going to:

<https://www.grantinterface.com/Process/Apply?urlkey=athens>

Fiscal Sponsor: If this grant is being submitted by a fiscal sponsor, include a letter from the fiscal sponsor describing the relationship to the organizations as well as a copy of the sponsor's IRS tax-exempt status letter.

Timeline: Applications must be submitted by **April 11, 2025**.

Decisions on all grants will be made and recipients will be notified after **June 1, 2025**. Decisions of the Board of the Rocky Community Improvement Fund and the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation of Nelsonville are final.

Acknowledgment of Support: The Rocky Community Improvement Fund and Osteopathic Heritage Foundation of Nelsonville partnership should be recognized as donors in any publicity about the funded project. Copies of any such publicity must also be included in the grant completion report. Logos for both funders are available in digital form. The text should say:

"This project is made possible with support from The Rocky Community Improvement Fund and the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation of Nelsonville".

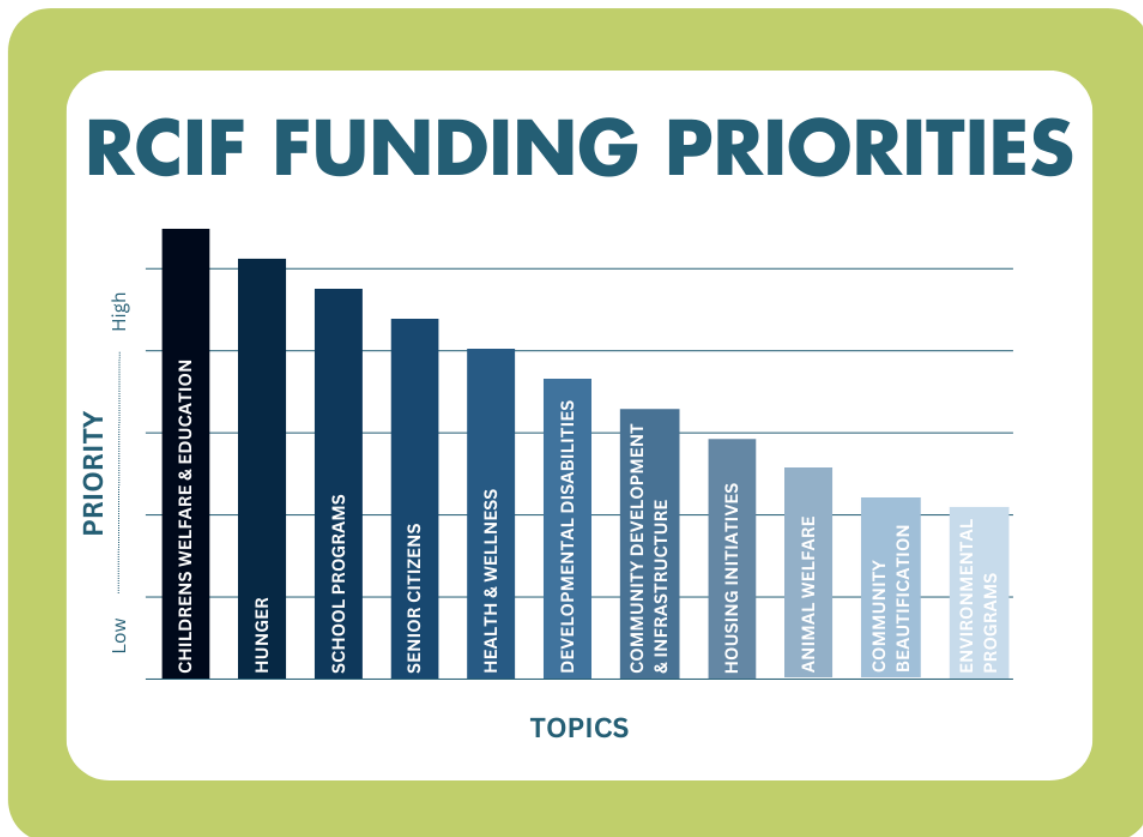
RCIF works through the Athens County Foundation towards the vision of everyone in Athens County being engaged and working together to ensure a healthy, inclusive, thriving community for all. See <https://athensfoundation.org/about-us/our-mission/> for more information.

FAQ's:

1. **What is your Mission Statement?**
 - a. The mission of the Rocky Community Improvement Fund (RCIF) is to enhance the quality of life for the people of Nelsonville and the surrounding communities by promoting philanthropy among Rocky Brands Associates, building an endowment, and awarding grants.

2. **How much can we request and how much will you award?**
 - a. RCIF does not restrict how much you can request, however below are our averages from previous grant cycles:
 - Applications received = 129
 - Average request = \$5,640
 - Applications awarded =74
 - Average award = \$3,460

3. **What are the general funding priorities of RCIF**



4. **Are there certain communities that you have a focus on?**
 - a. Yes, Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Morgan, Perry, Vinton, and Washington Counties.



5. How can we strengthen our request?

- a. Be sure to consider the criteria noted in our guidelines that the committee will use to rank applications.
- b. Consider “needs” vs “wants”.
- c. Prioritize the items within your request. If only a portion of it can be funded, what is more important?
- d. These grants are very competitive, examine other possible sources of funding, do not rely on RCIF for 100% of the funding.
- e. Complete all required documents and provide detailed information.

6. Why didn't I get funded?

- a. Every year we receive requests totaling more than we have to disburse, and in most cases, it is denied because we don't have enough money to fund all worthy projects. However, we are always happy to discuss your request with you and comments that the Committee may have made related to your request.

Additional questions can be submitted to RCIF@rockybrands.com.