

Community Bridge directory: Purpose, eligibility, and helpful tips

PURPOSE OF COMMUNITY BRIDGE

This online nonprofit directory is designed to strengthen connections between donors and nonprofits and help build and sustain a stronger nonprofit sector. The directory serves as a bridge between generosity and community impact, making philanthropy more effective and accessible for all.

For nonprofits, it offers a platform to share their stories directly with potential supporters and increase visibility. Organizations have the opportunity to update their most pressing needs on a quarterly basis, ensuring the information remains timely and relevant.

501(C)(3) IN GOOD STANDING

A 501(c)(3) in good standing is a nonprofit organization that has been recognized by the IRS as tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and continues to meet its tax-exempt status revoked or suspended. Being in good standing assures donors and funders that the nonprofit is legally authorized to operate as a charitable, tax-exempt entity. Organizations that are not a 501(c)(3) must provide verification of current fiscal sponsorship by a 501(c)(3) in good standing.

USING GIFT LEVELS TO SHOW IMPACT

By connecting gift levels to tangible outcomes, you help donors see their role in creating change in a personal and inspiring way.

Helpful tips:

- **Align with the request type:** Impact examples should always reflect the nature of the funding request.
- **Tie gifts to outcomes:** Translate each level into a concrete result (e.g., services delivered, equipment purchased, participants supported).
- **Show tiered impact:** Demonstrate how smaller gifts meet urgent or immediate needs, while larger gifts provide sustainability or long-term transformation.
- **Keep examples illustrative:** Donors should know their gift, at any level, contributes to the broader mission, but clear examples make the impact feel real and actionable.
- **Adapt for your context:** The dollar ranges in these examples are flexible. Customize them so each level directly supports your organization's request and priorities.

FUNDING TYPE EXAMPLES

- **General Operating Support**

These grants provide unrestricted funding to sustain a nonprofit's core mission and daily functions. **Examples:** Rent, utilities, staff salaries, technology, insurance or other overhead costs.

These funds would enable our organization to:

- **\$1,000–\$5,000:** Cover one month of rent and utilities, ensuring our doors remain open to serve the community.
- **\$10,000+:** Support part-time staff salaries for six months, expanding our ability to serve more families.
- **\$25,000+:** Invest in upgraded technology and systems that strengthen efficiency, accountability, and long-term sustainability.

- **Capital / Facilities Support**

These grants fund significant, tangible investments in a nonprofit's physical space or equipment. **Examples:** Construction or renovation of buildings, purchase of vehicles, installation of specialized equipment or technology infrastructure upgrades.

These funds would enable our organization to:

- **\$1,000–\$5,000:** Purchase new shelving and storage to improve efficiency in our food pantry.
- **\$10,000+:** Replace outdated HVAC systems, improving safety and comfort in our community center.
- **\$25,000+:** Contribute to the construction of a new facility that doubles our service capacity.

- **Project / Program Support**

These grants provide restricted funding for defined initiatives, services or collaborations that advance organization priorities. **Examples:** Running a workforce development program, piloting a mental health initiative, expanding food distribution services or multi-organization collaborations around community health outcomes.

These funds would enable our organization to:

- **\$1,000–\$5,000:** Provide 50 hours of workforce training for unemployed adults seeking new career opportunities.
- **\$10,000+:** Launch a mental health initiative, connecting 100 youth with counseling and support services.
- **\$25,000+:** Expand our food distribution program to a new site, serving 500 additional families monthly.

- **Capital Campaigns**

These campaigns are focused, time-limited fundraising efforts for major nonprofit investments in infrastructure or long-term sustainability. **Examples:** Supporting large-scale projects such as building a community center, expanding a hospital wing, renovating facilities, purchasing land for a nature preserve or establishing an endowment for scholarships.

These funds would enable our organization to:

- **\$1,000–\$5,000:** Purchase classroom furniture for a new education wing.
- **\$10,000+:** Support installation of energy-efficient HVAC in the renovated facility.
- **\$25,000+:** Contribute to the construction of a new community center serving thousands of residents annually.

- **Naming Opportunities**

Naming opportunities recognize significant philanthropic gifts by allowing individuals, families or organizations to have their name associated with a space, program, fund or initiative.

Examples: A named scholarship fund, a donor's name on a building wing or classroom, or a program endowed in honor of a family.

DISCLAIMER

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