

The Cowan Foundation Cowan Family Youth Committee (CFYC) – Granting Guidelines

Overview:

The Cowan Family Youth Committee is focused on reaching out to their communities in a way that promotes their understanding of the needs of others, and allows the Committee to be proactive in responding to issues that concern them as well as spurring others on to do the same. In particular, it is their hope to motivate their youth peer group to also take an active interest in the needs of others around them and promote action at the community level.

Our Communities are those where a member of the CFYC lives and/or goes to school. Currently, those communities are:

- Oxford County (Woodstock)
- Waterloo Region (Kitchener, Waterloo & Cambridge)
- Wellington County (Guelph)

Eligibility Criteria

The recipient must be a registered Canadian charity or an incorporated non-profit organization.

Types of Applications that won't be considered

- Applications where the recipient charity is not a registered Canadian charity
- Applications for projects outside of "CFYC Communities" as defined above
- Individual applicants or individual pursuits

Types of Funding that won't be considered

- Feasibility studies
- Deficit financing
- Endowment funds
- Ongoing operating funding. (Consideration will be given on a one or two year commitment)

Current Granting Focus

Currently, the CFYC has two major focus areas:

1. To support programs that assist the **Youth in CFYC Communities**, whether that be programs to aid “at-risk” youth, disabled youth and/or disadvantaged youth, OR to encourage excellence in our youth to help them become our leaders of tomorrow.
2. To support programs that address the issue of our **Environment** and the need to take steps to protect our environment for future generations.

Approach

The CFYC follows two approaches in determining their granting recommendations:

1. Direct Grants:

The CFYC will make some direct grants by seeking out specific organizations and programs that are addressing the two major focus areas. Once specific organizations and programs are identified, a committee member will research the organization and program, and he/she may choose to recommend this program to the CFYC for a grant. Should the CFYC support the recommendation, it will then be presented to The Cowan Foundation for final approval. If approved by The Cowan Foundation, a direct grant will be made to the organization to support the specific program of interest.

2. Inspiring Youth Action Program:

The CFYC members are also seeking the assistance of their like-minded peer group to find ways to support programs that address the two major focus areas of CFYC. To do this, the CFYC has developed a program called “Inspiring Youth Action”. Under this program, The Cowan Foundation will match, dollar for dollar, funds raised by an eligible and approved student group for a qualifying charity. The maximum amount of a grant under this program is \$1,000.00 per charitable organization. Note that the program and charity must fall within the eligibility criteria of the committee as well as the stated focus of “Youth in CFYC Communities” and/or the “Environment”.

The objectives of the “Inspiring Youth Action Program” are:

- To reach out to the peers of CFYC members to assist them in finding programs that are focused on the two major focus areas and that will make a difference in CFYC communities, and
- To encourage the peers of CFYC members to engage in fundraising efforts that will support and contribute to CFYC communities and to recognize them for taking action.

This program is offered through the schools attended by the CFYC members. Currently, those schools are:

- Rockway Mennonite Collegiate, Kitchener, Ontario
- St. John's Kilmarnock School, Breslau, Ontario
- Southwood Secondary School, Cambridge, Ontario
- Woodstock Collegiate Institute, Woodstock, Ontario

***Only students of the schools noted above are eligible to apply for consideration under this program

The program would be promoted in the schools through communication vehicles currently used by the schools. A designated teacher or staff member at the school will be identified to act as the school advisor on this program and will work with the CFYC member to assist with the communication of the program, provide advice to interested student groups and assist with any administrative issues required by the school.

Special Focus – For the 2008/09 School Year – Youth Addiction

Although any applications for causes which fit within the two broad objectives of the CFCY (Youth and the Environment) will be considered under this program, the Cowan Youth Committee is particularly interested in addressing a special need in our communities which may be of interest to many of their peers. The issue of youth addiction is a growing problem and, in our research, there appears to be little in the way of support and treatment for youth in our communities who develop an addiction problem. As a result, the committee has a strong interest in supporting charities in our communities with programs targeted at youth that assist in the education, awareness and/or treatment of addictions.

Notwithstanding the committee's particular interest in youth addiction issues, we would like to emphasize that the committee will still be considering all applications that meet the committee's broader guidelines.

How do I apply?

For **Direct Grants**, the committee does not accept unsolicited applications, but will be proactive in seeking opportunities that are of interest to them.

To participate in the **Inspiring Youth Action Program**, applications will be available at your school. Applications must be received at least 15 days prior to the meeting dates of the Committee to be considered, and the Committee will respond to those applications within 30 days following their meeting. **Applications will be available at your School's front office.** Please see your School's designated teacher/staff member or your School's CFYC member.

For the 2008-2009 school year, the Committee's meeting dates are as follows:

September 7, 2008

November 2, 2008

January 11, 2009

March 8, 2009

May 3, 2009

How will Grants be provided?

All funds will be made payable directly to the charity for whom the fund raising was completed.

In the case of a matching grant under the Inspiring Youth Action Program, a letter will be included from The Cowan Foundation that will acknowledge the students responsible for leading the fund raising effort and indicate that the Foundation's contribution is in response to their efforts. The letter, along with the cheque, may be provided to the Student leading the fundraising effort for delivery to the charity or may be mailed directly to the charity.