

Nonprofit Guide



*"I always wanted to get involved with nonprofits on a deeper level and CommuniCare gave me the unique opportunity to **connect with organizations, learn about their behind-the-scenes happenings, and support them in their incredible work.**"*
- Ruthie, St. Mary's Academy

Thank you for your interest in the CommuniCare program! This is a special opportunity for your organization to **partner with young people** and we appreciate your willingness to support them on their journey to becoming grantmakers.

To help you get the most out of the CommuniCare program, we have included details related to the grant application and interview processes. More helpful information can be found on the [FAQ page](#) of our website.

GENERAL

- All 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations who operate in the State of Oregon for the direct benefit of its residents are eligible to apply for a CommuniCare grant. Please keep in mind that the student mission statements will often identify a specific geographic area of prioritization. If you have a fiscal sponsor, awarded funds will go directly to your fiscal sponsor and will be earmarked for your use.
- The average CommuniCare grant is \$3,000 - \$5,000.
- The CARE Foundation does not require any follow-up reporting from grant recipients. However, the students who awarded the grant may ask for a report or letter if they choose.
- If you receive a grant, a representative from your organization (employee, board member, volunteer, or friend of the organization) must attend the Grant Awards Ceremony in May to receive the grant. If your organization receives multiple grants, you may need to attend multiple ceremonies.

APPLICATIONS

- Please begin your cover letter with "**Dear CommuniCare Grantmakers**".
- Use language that is accessible for a teenage audience in your cover letter. Professional and industry-specific vocabulary (such as *trauma-informed* or *community-based organization*) may be second nature to you, but can sometimes obscure the good work being done.
- Do not provide hyperlinks to additional content (such as videos) in your cover letter. This type of material should be shared in the interview stage.

- You can apply to multiple mission statements. Please keep in mind that each mission statement you apply to is you committing to a potential interview with that student group.
- Submit separate applications to separate mission statements **only** if you are tailoring your materials in great detail. Do not submit separate cover letters if you are only making minor changes to the letter (such as including a mission statement # or a school/group name). This makes our admin on the back-end much more difficult.

"During the grantmaking process, I was surprised by the level of attention and respect that each nonprofit gave our group. All of our nonprofit candidates took the time to visit our school and were extremely patient in answering our questions. I'm impressed by the nonprofit community in Oregon!" - Ben, Catlin Gabel School



INTERVIEWS

- In-person interviews are **strongly preferred** over virtual interviews. Please meet with students in person unless there are extenuating circumstances.
- Student group sizes vary greatly for interviews, so be prepared to share your good work with only a couple student leaders or a classroom full of grantmakers!
- If you want to share a slideshow presentation or video, communicate this ahead of time to ensure proper technology will be available to you.
- You are welcome to bring more than one representative to your interview. Grantmakers like to see equal participation from all attendees, so if bringing more than one representative, we encourage everyone to participate in the interview – or at least explain why one representative might be participating much more than the other.
- Nonprofits sometimes like to make grantmakers feel better about their upcoming funding decisions by mentioning something to the effect of, "Don't worry, we don't really need the funds!" Avoid this type of sentiment - it's confusing for students and likely means you will not get a grant.
- If you are having troubles getting a response from a student group during the interview scheduling process or if you have additional questions, please contact the CommuniCare Program Director at kristen@schnitzercare.org.



"The most rewarding part of being a CommuniCare grantmaker is the feeling of knowing that your efforts are going towards something truly beneficial for the community. It has been so rewarding to support movements that are meaningful to my school by providing funding to nonprofit organizations." - Marina, Gresham HS