

2022 GREAT FISH COMMUNITY CHALLENGE - Accepting applications from April 18th to June 2, 2022 at 4pm MDT

Applications to the Great Fish Community Challenge must be submitted online by 4:00 p.m. MDT on Thursday, June 2, 2022 to be considered for participation in the 2022 Challenge. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

WE RECOMMEND SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION EARLY. Submitting your application begins a dialogue with the Community Foundation. Once you submit, we will review your application and contact you within a day or two if we have questions or if financial reports need to be corrected. We may go back and forth as many times as necessary to make sure your application is complete, but it must be complete by the deadline. Applications that are incomplete on June 2nd at 4pm MDT will not be considered by the Grants Committee.

This year, we have two application clinics for anyone needing help with software or guidance regarding the application:

1. Thursday, April 21st at 10:00 a.m. in the conference room above Underscore Art & Jewelry, 100 Central Avenue, Whitefish
 - o If you would like to, please bring your laptop or iPad so you can log in to our application software
 - o [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)
2. Tuesday, May 10th at noon at Flathead Valley Community College, Arts and Trades Building, 745 Grandview Drive, Room AT139
 - o If you would like to, please bring your laptop or iPad. Brown bag lunches are welcome as well.
 - o [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

The Great Fish Community Challenge is a matching grant campaign organized by Whitefish Community Foundation. Each year, participating nonprofits work hard to raise as much as possible during the six-week campaign. Here at the Community Foundation, we work all year to fundraise the Great Fish Challenge Match Fund and the funds necessary to cover the costs of running the campaign, thereby allowing nonprofit organizations to participate free of charge.

In 2021, Whitefish Community Foundation worked with 60 participating nonprofits to raise over \$4.2 million. Since 2015, the Great Fish Community Challenge has raised over \$17 million for more than 75 local nonprofit organizations.

The application is open to IRS designated 501(c)(3) public charities serving residents of Flathead County, Montana, and all funds raised during the campaign will be allocated to projects and programs serving Flathead County residents.

REQUIREMENTS

- Applicants must be tax exempt under the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or publicly-owned tax exempt organizations. Tax exempt status must exist at time of application.
- At this time, schools are not eligible to apply.
- Organizations must have updated their Candid Nonprofit Profile to earn a Bronze Seal of Transparency. [Update your Candid \(previously GuideStar\) profile here.](#)

- Applicants must have previously participated in a Whitefish Community Foundation Grant Program.
- Organizations must have submitted all required documentation for previous grant awards by the specified deadline.
- All nonprofits accepted into the campaign must follow the [official rules and procedures](#).
- Organizations that did not participate in the 2021 Great Fish Community Challenge must have attended the January 27, 2022 nonprofit meeting in order to apply to participate in the 2022 campaign.
- To be eligible to participate in the Great Fish Community Challenge, funding must be allocated to projects and/or programs benefiting residents of the greater Flathead Valley, and be associated with one of the following categories: Arts and Culture, Animals, Civic, Conservation/Environment, Education, Health and Human Service, or Recreation.

THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS WILL BE UPLOADED INTO THE APPLICATION:

1. Detailed Project/Program Budget for the project or program to be supported by Great Fish Community Challenge funds

- The budget will include all budgeted income sources and expenses for the life of the project/program

2. Budget versus Actual Profit and Loss Statement for the most recently completed fiscal year

- Profit & Loss Statements that do not include a budget column will not be accepted
- This document may be a few pages long, but all columns must all fit on one page

3. Two-Year Comparative Balance Sheet for the organization's two most recently completed fiscal years

4. IRS 501(c)(3) Determination Letter (all pages)

5. 2020 signed, filed 990-EZ or full form 990 (unless this is the first Great Fish Community Challenge for your organization)

6. Board of Directors meeting minutes demonstrating approval of the Primary and Secondary Use of Funds

- If you participated in a previous Great Fish Community Challenge and your Board of Directors has selected your Great Fish Fund Advisors for 2022, it is a good idea to approve your Fund Advisors at the same meeting.

Although the Whitefish Community Foundation Grants Committee reviews each application separately, it generally does not consider grants for:

*Organizations outside Flathead County

*Individuals

*Deficits or retirement of debt

*Programs or projects promoting a religious doctrine

*Political campaigns or projects/programs promoting a political agenda

*Organizations operating under a fiscal sponsor

*Seed money for projects or programs not yet started, or for projects or programs that are completed or conducted prior to the grant award date

*Event sponsorships

Nonprofits will be notified of their acceptance no later than June 24, 2022. All accepted nonprofits will be required to attend a mandatory meeting on Tuesday, June 28, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. at the O'Shaughnessy Center in Whitefish.

The Great Fish Community Challenge will launch August 4th and end September 16th at 5:00 p.m.