



NEW HAMPSHIRE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
Empower Coos Youth Grants Program
2018 - 2019

The [Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund](#) of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation is pleased to announce a new pilot initiative, the Empower Coos Youth Grants Program. The program is a direct result of the need for increased opportunities for youth to have direct involvement and decision-making roles in their communities. In addition to providing grants to organizations that support positive youth programming, this is our way of inviting students directly to the table.

The Tillotson Fund's Empower Coos Youth Grants Program aims to effectively partner with youth in assessing community need, overseeing grant making activities, deepening connection to place, and developing leadership skills. At the core of the program is a youth committee of 12 to 15 high school aged representatives, each bringing a diversity of life experience, regional knowledge, and personal interests. The grantmaking program will follow the Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund's geographic priorities and focus on Coos County and surrounding communities in the United States and Canada.

This new pilot youth grantmaking program will roll out over the next two years, with program development, recruitment, and training taking place in 2018, and an anticipated first round of grantmaking in early 2019. The anticipated program outcomes tie directly to the Fund's long-term goals and the Foundation's [New Hampshire Tomorrow](#) initiative.

The Empower Coos Youth Grants Program initial guiding principles include:

- Promote positive youth development by engaging young people in meaningful ways in an effort to build their individual skills and capacities.
- Contribute to a shift in community perception about young people, shedding light on the potential, wisdom, and capacity of youth.
- Build connections between youth with differing life experiences, and between youth and adults in their communities.
- Enhance regional institutions by including youth in decision-making processes.
- Strengthen communities by building a pipeline of committed, skilled, and experienced young leaders who can contribute to the region's development.
- Support youth in applying their regional knowledge, understanding of local needs, analytical skills, and understanding of philanthropic best practices in their role as grantmakers.

For more information on the program, please contact Jean Clarke at 603-225-6641 X20238 or jc@nhcf.org.