



Instructions for Applying to the Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund's Empower Coös Youth Grants Program

Geographic Area Served

The Empower Coös Youth Grants Program has a preference for programs that benefit Coös and Essex County and all surrounding communities in New Hampshire and Vermont.

General Eligibility

Organizations recognized as tax-exempt by the IRS are eligible, including US nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) status, tax-exempt public agencies, schools, municipalities, and places of worship for non-religious, non-denominational, and inclusive programming. Other student-led or community groups which do not have US tax-exempt status may apply for funding if a 501(c)(3) organization, municipality or public agency acts as their fiscal sponsor.

Grant Types and Amounts

The Empower Coös Youth Grants Program supports specific projects, operating expenses, planning, evaluation, and technical assistance. Grant requests can be up to \$10,000 however the program will give preference to those applications requesting up to \$5,000.

GRANT PROGRAM GOALS

The Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund's Grants Program focuses on strengthening communities and deepening people's connections to one another and the region.

The priorities for the Empower Coös Youth Grants Program are to:

- Support environmental initiatives and programs that focus on reducing carbon emissions through education and awareness building or through direct carbon reduction practices.
- Increase extracurricular activities for youth (ages 12 to 22) such as: programs and activities that build community, enhance environmental education awareness, or increase access to science, music, arts, and athletics.
- Strengthen community engagement through events and public gatherings that enhance connection and togetherness.

Proposal Review Criteria

The Empower Coös Youth responsive grants program is competitive. Successful applicants must demonstrate that:

- Initiatives and programs have engaged youth (ages 22 and under) in the design, implementation, and decision making process of the organization or project.
- Programs and organizational leadership is focused on increasing participation for groups and individuals that face barriers to access. Applicants should demonstrate how the initiative is reducing barriers to participation.

- For requests over \$5,000, initiatives and projects must show how they are planning for long-term impact in the region.

HOW TO APPLY

The Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund, including Empower Coös Youth, generally makes no more than one grant at a time to any organization and prefers to review no more than one proposal at a time from any agency. If you submit a request that is not funded, you may reapply again during the next grant cycle.

EMPOWER COÖS YOUTH (requests up to \$10,000)

All applications must be submitted via the online grant portal Grant Source.

- Executive Summary: detailed description of the proposed project or program, its importance, and expected results.
- Community Need or Opportunity: Describe the need or opportunity including qualitative and quantitative data as appropriate. If other organizations address a similar need, describe your organization's differences and plans for partnership, if any.
- Project Description: Describe the proposed project or program including major activities, key people involved and the timetable for the work.
- Goals: Describe how your program advances one or more of the Empower Coös Youth Grants Program Goals.
- Youth Engagement: Describe how youth will be involved in the decision-making process and leadership throughout the lifetime of this program or initiative.
- Participation: Please describe who the program will benefit and how. Explain how your program increases access to opportunities provided and removes barriers to opportunity.
- Financial Plan: Describe what part of the work you plan to support with these grant funds. Have you pursued other sources of funding to support the work? Please indicate if these additional funds are already committed and/or in-kind. If this work is on-going, how will you sustain the work beyond this grant? If it is not ongoing, how does it create lasting community benefit?

Optional: Applicants are invited to select up to two of the applicant questions (not including the Executive Summary) to answer via 3-min video, 8-slide PowerPoint slide deck, or other creative means that demonstrate your passion, creativity, and/or personal connection to the work.

For applications up to \$10,000 the process is as follows:

1. Program staff review applications for completeness.
2. The Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund Empower Coos Youth Grants Committee approves or declines applications based on their ability to meet the goals and priorities of the Fund.
3. The Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund Advisory Committee approves grant recommendations at regularly scheduled meetings.
4. Applicants are notified of decisions by mail within three months of applying.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

All applications must be received by January 17, 2019 no later than 5:00 p.m. on the deadline day. Grant awards will be made by March 2019.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact staff of the Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund at the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation with any questions or to discuss a proposal request. Contact Jean Clarke at 603-225-6641 x238 or jean.clarke@nhcf.org or Phoebe Backler at 603-225-6641 x247 or phoebe.backler@nhcf.org or Kirsten Scobie at 603-788-4522 or kirsten.scobie@nhcf.org.