



**NEW HAMPSHIRE  
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION**

UP TO THE PROMISE

**Instructions for Applying to the Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund  
Empower Coös Youth Grants Program  
2023**

**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. The program awards grants up to \$10,000 for one to three years.

**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 involve youth (ages 12 to 22). Examples include: clean-up days; recycling programs; town policies to support healthy, clean environments; habitat protection for wildlife, and expansion of conservation efforts, etc.
- 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. Examples include: club/teams/after school programs; math/debate/library; service club clean-ups; outdoor/skiing/hikes/YLTA, etc.
- Strengthen community engagement through events and public gatherings that enhance connection and togetherness. Examples include: free events to celebrate holidays; a clothing or food drive; family or community engagement events/activities, etc.
- Address gaps in need for underserved, low-income residents. Examples include: support for community centers providing internet services; reimbursement for electricity, food or clothing costs; drug rehabilitation centers for youth; cold weather shelters, etc.

## 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. In addition, if you are within the geographic area and meet the eligibility criteria listed above, you will be awarded a stipend of \$100 to compensate for the time committed to the application process.

All applications must be submitted via the online grant portal [Grant Source](#).

- **Proposal Summary:** Please describe the proposed use of funds. (word count: up to 50)
- **Community Need or Opportunity:** Describe the need or opportunity for the proposed work in Coos County, New Hampshire and/or surrounding communities in the United States, including qualitative and quantitative data as appropriate. (word count: up to 300)
- **Project Description:** Describe the proposed project or program including major activities, key people involved and the timetable for the work. (word count: up to 300)
- **Youth Engagement:** Describe how youth will be involved in the decision-making process and leadership throughout this program or initiative. (word count: up to 300)
- **Participation:** Explain how your program increases access to participation and removes barriers to opportunity. (word count: up to 300)
- **Sustainability:** If this work is ongoing, how will you sustain the work beyond this grant? If it's not ongoing, how does it advance organizational goals and/or create lasting community benefit? (word count: up to 300)
- **Goals:** Describe how your program advances one or more of the goals of the grant program to which you are applying. (word count: up to 300)
- **Optional Upload:** Applicants are invited to select up to two of the applicant questions (not including the Proposal 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.
- **Financial Plan (Budget Tab):** Please describe your funding strategy to achieve the work, including any additional resources such as grants, in-kind support or organizational contributions (committed or pending). (word count: up to 300)

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 Coös 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 18, 2023 no later than 5:00 p.m. on the deadline day. Grant awards will be made by March 2023.

### **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](mailto:jean.clarke@nhcf.org). You can also schedule a zoom meeting with Jean by clicking on this [link](#).