

DRAFT- Community Grant Policy

CA recognizes that many entities in the Columbia community share responsibility for enhancing the health, wellness, individual development and quality of life for Columbia's residents. CA therefore works with businesses, educational institutions, not-for-profit entities and philanthropic organizations to benefit the social welfare of the people of Columbia. One way in which CA does this is by making community grants to organizations that contribute to the quality of life in Columbia, enhance CA's mission, and help to meet CA's vision — which is to create and support solutions to meet the evolving needs of a dynamic and inclusive community.

The CA Board approves grant amounts during the budget process that fall into three categories:

- Board directed grants, typically in amounts in excess of \$100,000, such as the grants that have been made in recent years to Inner Arbor Trust, the Columbia Festival of the Arts and the Downtown Columbia Partnership;
- A grant to the Community Foundation of Howard County to be used in turn by the Foundation to make grants to entities selected by the Foundation;
- A lump sum community grants amount to be dispersed as individual grants not to exceed \$25,000 to community organizations selected by the President/CEO and Director of Community Services.

After the Board has approved the budget, grant applications are generally available to community organizations from March to June. The President/CEO consults with the Director of Community Services regarding the types of services made available by each organization applying for a grant and the purpose for which the grant is requested. The President/CEO then makes the final determinations between June and August on the community organizations that will receive grants and the amounts of the awards.

Prior to the transfer of any grant funds by CA, the recipient must sign a grant agreement that imposes certain requirements on the organization as a condition of receiving the grant. Within 30 days after the end of the Grantee's fiscal year, the Grantee must provide CA with a report on its expenditure of the grant funds, including a program evaluation of the activities that occurred during the grant period.