

## **FAQs: FOCUS GRANT 2022 DETAILS**

**Q: “Closing the Gap in Education” is a fairly broad topic. What specific areas are we hoping an applicant will address?**

While there are no preconceived projects, we are looking for the application that demonstrates an ability to deliver the most meaningful positive impact on the opportunity gap in education in the Wood River Valley. Suggested topics may address:

- Decreasing chronic achievement gaps between student sub-populations,
- Providing “catch up” instruction and support for students who have experienced learning loss due to COVID,
- Bolstering early learning programs for students who are lacking school readiness skills, and/or professional training for early childhood providers who can have an impact on student readiness,
- Increasing families’ ability to support the academic achievement of their children,
- Increasing rates of post-secondary continuing education for high school students,
- Building knowledge and expertise in the science of learning, especially the science of learning to read, in the community at large.

**Q: Do we expect organizations to collaborate? How important is this?**

Collaboration is welcome but not required.

If an applicant believes the challenge is best met through partnerships with other nonprofits, we welcome joint projects. If an organization believes the issue can be best served by the team it has in place, then we look forward to those applications as well!

**Q. How will we know if an organization is being successful?**

In addition to identifying the applicant’s objectives, we are asking organizations to provide metrics by which they will measure their success. Our goal is to move the needle in closing the opportunity gap in education; indicators of progress will be defined by the applicant before the project begins and a WRWF impact team will meet with the Focus grantee throughout the year.

**Q: A \$200K grant is a big investment for our organization. What safeguards are in place to assure success? What happens if we’re not pleased with the progress that the nonprofit has made in the first year?**

The initial FG22 commitment is up to \$100,000. We intend to hold the organization(s) accountable to the metrics defined in their application. The FG22 recipient will be eligible to apply for up to an additional \$100,000 for FG23, but we may elect to fund a new project focused on education in that grant cycle.

**Q: What is the process for an applicant?**

Organizations interested in applying for FG22 must submit a Letter of Inquiry (LOI) online between Wednesday, September 1, 2021 and Friday, October 1, 2021. Once the LOI is approved by the review team, a full application will be requested for submission between November 1 and December 1, 2021. During January and February, the Focus Grant committee will visit the applicants and recommend a slate of finalists to our full Grants committee. In March, the finalists will make a final presentation to our full membership, and then our membership will vote on the finalists. The winning initiative will be announced in early April; funds are distributed in June 2022.

**Q: Will nonprofits apply for both the Focus Grant and the Pooled Fund?**

Applicants may apply for both Focus Grant 2022 and the Pooled Fund Grant for different programs or projects but can only be awarded one.

**Q. Will there be an information session for members so that I can learn more?**

A Focus Grant 2022 information session for members is tentatively scheduled for August 25<sup>th</sup>, location is TBD.