



## Grantmaking Program

### A. Philosophy

The Nancy Buck Ransom Foundation (NBRF) funds youth-serving programs in Crivitz, Wisconsin and Monterey County, California that enable youth and families to flourish and prosper. Our purpose is to partner with and support organizations who reduce the barriers that prevent success and support the development of children and youth.

We envision a world where ALL children have what they need to thrive. This vision is at the center of our work.

Trust, respect, and belonging are the core values that guide our work with partners, communities and each other. We recognize that the grantmaking process is an expression of our values and the primary way we build relationships and fulfill our role in the nonprofit sector. We also acknowledge the challenging power dynamics that comes from an imbalance of resources. We strive to minimize the unequal power dynamics that tend to exist between foundations and grantees and use our unique position to further our partners' work in the communities we serve.

In our work with applicants and grantees, we seek to implement our core values by:

- Building relationships grounded in trust and mutual goals
- Practicing transparency and honesty in all of our work
- Being accessible and available to do the good work together
- Promoting the values and practice of diversity, racial equity, inclusion and belonging
- Serving our community with humility and grace

### B. Practices

NBRF works to provide the support organizations and communities need. As a strong proponent of [trust-based philanthropy](#) and in an effort to put our values into practice, we subscribe to the following grantmaking practices.

- Accept multi-year funding requests
- Encourage organizations to apply for general operating support
- Streamline our process and only ask for the information we need to make funding decisions
- Have a [asset-based approach](#) to our understanding of communities
- Learn with and from our partners to strengthen organizations, communities, systems and policies

Of the applications we receive within our programmatic priorities, we prioritize organizations that:

- Intentionally focus on serving those facing the greatest barriers to opportunity
- Center children and families in their approach and in their work
- Develop diverse organizational leadership (staff and board)
- Celebrate the diverse makeup of families and emphasize cultural responsiveness
- Prioritize authentic community engagement and leadership
- Advocate for systems change and anti-racist policy reform to better support children and families

### **C. Programmatic Priorities**

#### **Advocacy & Policy Reform**

As a small foundation, we understand our limitations in bringing real change to the youth of our community. We fund organizations who are working towards more systemic reforms to improve areas such as child care, education, health equity and other youth-led and/or youth-centered campaigns.

#### **Emotional Development**

Our youth need programs that encourage trust, respect, self-esteem and, ultimately, independence.

#### **Family/Caregiver Support & Education**

Family and caregivers are the foundation of youth development and should be supported as such. We support parent/caregiver support groups and education, early emotional intelligence programs and maternal mental health among other things.

#### **Opportunities to Belong**

Promoting a sense of belonging is fundamental to attracting and retaining the participation of young people, as well as helping them develop confidence and a personal identity. Young people need to feel and to be included, regardless of their gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, personality, or physical, intellectual, or social limitations.

#### **Opportunities for Skill Building**

At the heart of many community programs for youth are opportunities for skill building. Programs can use a wide variety of activities, such as community service, adventure and outdoor activities, art, drama, music, cultural awareness, academic improvement, and career preparation, etc. to support positive youth development and to meet the program-specific objectives. Programs such as these teach skills but they also work on overall development through responsibility, leadership, persistence, and connection to the family, schools, and the community.

## **Security**

Kids must feel safe and secure, with their basic survival needs met: shelter, food, clothing, medical care and protection from harm.

## **D. Guidelines**

### ***Eligibility***

- Crivitz Youth, Inc.
- 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations or public agencies serving Monterey County children, youth and/or families
- Organizations must have completed any previous NBRF grants, and all final evaluations must be turned in prior to submitting a new application

We do not fund:

- Funding to K-12 schools and public agencies that would supplant tax-supported, mandated services, equipment or facilities
- One-time events (concerts, field trips, etc.)
- Fundraising events and sponsorships
- Religious activities
- Endowments
- Individuals

Organizations that are new to the Nancy Buck Ransom Foundation are ***strongly encouraged*** to call us prior to submitting proposals to discuss eligibility and fit with our program priorities.

### ***Funding cycles***

We accept applications twice a year and deadlines are the third Friday in February and the third Friday in August. Grant decisions are generally made two and a half months after the application deadline. Organizations can apply during either cycle. We accept one application per organization per calendar year. Organizations who serve as a fiscal sponsor to non-501(c)3 organizations or informal groups may submit more than one application per calendar year, but only one per sponsored project per year.