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FRED L. EMERSON FOUNDATION

## GRANT GUIDELINES

### Background:

Since 1932, the Fred L. Emerson Foundation has provided support to the core community organizations of Auburn, New York and the surrounding central New York area where its founder, Fred L. Emerson, lived and worked.

Mr. Emerson served as president of Dunn & McCarthy, Inc., a manufacturer of fine women's shoes based in Auburn. In 1932, Fred Emerson established a foundation to institutionalize what had become a personal tradition of quietly investing in individuals and his community.

The Foundation's mission is: *To continue the work of Fred L. Emerson, who invested in individuals and the community with such humility that very few people knew how many lives were impacted by his generosity. As a family foundation controlled by his descendants, we continue his work by being especially vigilant investors in selected organizations where we believe we can make a critical and significant difference.*

Today, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> generation descendants of F.L. Emerson are actively engaged in setting the grantmaking priorities of the Foundation.

### Priorities:

The philanthropic focus of the Foundation has remained true to the interests and values of its founder. Today, the Foundation's grantmaking is focused on Upstate New York with a concentration in the founder's community of Auburn, Cayuga County and the surrounding region.

We offer the following guidance to organizations seeking our support:

- While the Foundation maintains a strong interest in our local community, we also take interest in selected projects from throughout the region that typically have a connection to the founder's community.
- The Foundation provides support to a wide array of qualified organizations. We do not allocate our funding based upon predetermined categories (e.g. education, youth, etc.). Rather, our grantmaking is responsive to those opportunities that present as the most compelling and impactful and, at any given point in time, the most sustainable investment.

- We are particularly interested in innovative projects and initiatives that address an identified need and which have the potential to achieve outcomes that can be replicated.
- We believe strongly in the value of challenge grants as a way to motivate other funders and build stronger relationships.
- We prefer to support projects that involve other funders. From our perspective, multiple funding partners help validate the worthiness of a project and reduce risk.
- We are interested in projects that can be shown to maintain or improve the sustainability of an organization.
- We seek proposals that address the highest priority of an organization and where it can be shown our investment will make a critical and significant difference.
- We do not make grants to individuals or for-profit organizations and we do not sponsor fundraising events or political activities.
- Proposals seeking support solely for recurring operating expenses of an organization are strongly discouraged.
- Grant recipients will be expected to provide the Foundation with an evaluation report upon completion of the project for which funding was provided. Interim reports may also be requested on a case-by-case basis.
- The Foundation has a long tradition of supporting private higher education in Upstate New York. This continues to be an area of interest to the Foundation. We invite colleges and universities to review our Grant Guidelines for Higher Education.

### **To Submit a Proposal for Our Consideration:**

Proposals are accepted and considered on an ongoing basis.

Proposals should include a statement or letter of support from your organization's president or chief executive officer.

**All proposals** submitted for consideration must be completed through the Foundation's Online Application portal.

More information at: [www.emersonfoundation.com](http://www.emersonfoundation.com)