

# Future Fund FAQs

## FY 25-26 GRANT CYCLE

*Future Fund grants are available for eligible 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations that support Abilene nonprofits serving children and youth.*

*Please review the FAQs below for information regarding the new timeline and details for the updated application process.*

### **If I received a 2025 Future Fund grant, am I eligible for a FY25-26 grant?**

Yes. This will be a one-time situation where two cycles fall in the same calendar year, but they are different fiscal years for the Foundation, so we are working with a new fund payout to grant out.

In 2026 and beyond, the Future Fund application opportunity will only be open from September 15 to November 1 each year.

### **Why can't I ask for a specific amount or item?**

Funding is already designated for children and youth programs, and these grants are small (with a maximum award amount of \$2,500 from the Future Fund endowment).

We don't want you to have to guess at specifics about what the committee might prioritize, and streamlining the requests saves everyone time.

### **How can I estimate the organization's budget amount that is dedicated to local children/youth programs?**

If it is not clearly broken out in your annual budget, or your budget is based on a large area and you are having difficulty breaking out the portion for the local programs, do your best to estimate based on what you do know (i.e., Ballpark it).

- For example...If you serve 200 clients per year and you know that 50 are youth in Taylor Co., you can presumably calculate that 25% of your budget is for local youth programs.

**In the past, all or part of my organization's Future Fund grant came through donors. Will they still be able to contribute?**

Yes, while this will look slightly different through our internal processes, donors will have the same opportunities as in past cycles to contribute toward the programs they feel passionate about. The [Future Fund Community Connections](#) digital catalog will be shared with Future Fund members and fundholders and will also be available to the public on our [website](#).

We also hope the timing provides a year-end giving opportunity that may attract additional donors to give. Donor commitments will be in addition to anything the committee provides. The process for applicants will not be impacted, just hopefully easier.

**What is the timeframe for using the funds?**

About nine months... Follow-up evaluations for grants awarded in December 2025 will be due September 1, 2026, ahead of the 2026 Future Fund cycle application opening on September 15.

**If we cannot utilize the funding within the anticipated timeframe, what do we do?**

Communication with grant staff is key. Please email Kassidy Nygaard, CFA Community Grants Manager, at [\*knygaard@cfabilene.org\*](mailto:knygaard@cfabilene.org) with information regarding the circumstances, and we can determine if an extension is appropriate.

An extension for spending the funds and completing the follow-up evaluation will not necessarily keep you from applying in the next cycle. We will work with you through your specific situation.

**Should we ask for funding for a single program or provide information on all our youth programming?**

Our expectation is that you will use the funds as you indicate within the application, so it's up to you whether to divide it among programs or allocate it to just one. We encourage you to make it easy on your team to track funding expenditure. The application provides an opportunity for you to describe all your youth programs to help us understand all the ways you serve, even if you are earmarking funds for only one of the programs.

**Can we use a portion of the funds for "operational" costs?**

Yes — if by "operational" you mean the salaries or contract labor for people who directly help run your programs. We consider those program costs, and grant funds may be used for them. These are small grants, so they won't cover much in the way of general overhead or administrative expenses. Don't overthink it. If it's necessary to run your program, consider it program support.

### Are college-age students considered eligible as youth?

Yes. Programs serving traditional college-age students qualify for support through Future Fund grants.

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### FORM PREVIEWS

We have provided previews of various documents in the grant application process. The forms below are for reference only. All application information must be submitted online.

- [Grant Guidelines](#)
- [Application Preview](#)
- [Grant Evaluation](#)
- [Grant Agreement](#)