



Desert Financial Credit Union Community Giving Guidelines & FAQs

Giving Overview

As a part of our commitment to sharing success, Desert Financial Credit Union is proud to support non-profit organizations working to improve our community. We focus on building long-term relationships with our community partners to make a significant impact in Arizona.

As such, consideration is given to nonprofit partners that meet the following criteria:

- Must have a tax-exempt status under IRS section 501(c)(3)
- Be in operation for at least three years
- Have a volunteer board overseeing the organization's operations
- Serve 100+ individuals and address large scale social problems in Arizona
- Provide regular opportunities for Desert Financial team members to volunteer in support of the organization

Types of Support

Within these general guidelines, we consider the following requests:

- **Program Support** – Grant funds to support the implementation of programs and services
- **Sponsorships** – Funds to support volunteer or event opportunities

Funding Priorities

Children Services & Youth Development: Addresses programs that work with children and youth that are at-risk due to socio-economic factors. Typical programs that would fall under this category include:

- After school or mentoring programs
- Civic, social, cultural and work opportunities

Community & Neighborhood Improvement: Help improve the economic well-being of our local community and its citizens; and neighborhoods to create a greater sense of community.

Typical programs include:

- Poverty reduction – addressing hunger, workforce development, and other financial capability strategies
- Affordable housing

Education: Address critical educational focus areas. Typical programs include:

- Literacy programs (reading, writing and math)
- Financial education

Funding Exclusions

Please note that we are unable to support the following types of requests:

- Political candidates, parties, campaigns or causes.
- Travel of any kind, school sports teams, individuals or capital campaigns.
- Individuals – including raising money for a non-profit organization through activities such as racers or bikers needing pledges or money raised for charitable organizations or fundraisers that support a single individual.
- Programs related to the overall operation and management of a non-profit entity
- Social, labor union, alumni, or trade associations, fraternal or political organizations, or organizations serving a limited constituency
- Faith-based organizations or religious programs whose principal purpose is promulgating a particular religious faith, creed or doctrine
- Pageants and the individual contestants for any part of the event or process.
- Bachelor/Bachelorette Auction events.
- Individuals seeking assistance for personal travel to conferences, training or learning programs, reunions/anniversaries, mission trips, races, contests, competitions.
- Team travel to competitions, tournaments, playoffs, etc.
- Federal or Corporate United Way campaigns.
- Online auctions.
- Clubs, groups, and smaller organizations within a school (e.g. booster clubs, athletic departments, or academic groups.)
- Organizations that discriminate based on race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, national origin, disability, veteran status, or other legally protected status.

Funding Process

Organizations interested in inquiring about funding must fill out an [interest form](#). In the form, organizations must provide:

- Proof of 501(c)(3) status
- Mission of the organization
- Need that will be addressed
- Demographic group reached
- Event/project details, as applicable
 - Please submit your request at least 90 days prior to your event
- Sponsorship information, as applicable
- Specific amount requested, up to \$5,000

Sponsorship requests are reviewed once a month, but it may take up to 3 months for an application to be fully vetted. Because of the volume of requests received, Desert Financial supports opportunities most consistent with the funding priorities detailed above, and only agencies selected will receive a response. Grant applications are by invitation only.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I partner with Desert Financial Credit Union?

- If you are interested in partnering with Desert Financial and fit the criteria mentioned above, please fill out the [interest form](#). We will review your organization and request to ensure a fit within our existing nonprofit partnership model. We typically start all our potential nonprofit partnerships by offering volunteer opportunities for our team members.

How can I request volunteer support for an event?

- If your organization fits the criteria mentioned above, please submit an [interest form](#). We will review your request and determine if there is a fit for the volunteer opportunity. When submitting a request, please ensure:
 - A two month notice for the event to allow us adequate time to promote and recruit employees internally
 - Your organization must be an IRS designated 501(c)(3), have a volunteer board, and be in operation for at least three years

How do I go about requesting support for funding or sponsorships?

- If you meet the criteria above, please fill out the [interest form](#).

How can I get information about financial wellness classes?

- Please visit the [Desert Financial Foundation website](#) for additional information on our financial wellness education offered to local nonprofit organizations and businesses. If your organization is interested, please fill out a [request form](#), and we will review your request and determine staff availability.

How can I get in-kind donations for events or organizations?

- We do not provide in-kind donations for events or organizations at this time.