



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
- Participate in financial wellness education and programming with Desert Financial for staff and/or clients

Types of Support

Within these general guidelines, we consider the following requests:

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

Funding Priorities

Education: Support educational initiatives and programs that focus on the following areas:

- Increased academic success
- Post-secondary education
- Teacher appreciation and resource support

Children & Youth Development: Addresses programs that work with children and youth that are at-risk due to socioeconomic factors. Programs that would fall under this category will provide one or both of the following:

- Opportunities for youth & workforce development
- Basic needs support (school clothing, supplies, etc.)
- Mentoring
- Trauma informed care & healing

Financial Wellness: Help improve financial stability through the distribution of education and resources. Funding will be provided to programs that share financial resources with its clients and may include:

- Financial wellness education, including employment support, budgeting, savings, credit and debt awareness, and more

Social Services, Poverty, & Homelessness: Improving resource access for Arizona communities focused on critical services such as:

- Hunger and food insecurity
- Transition to reliable housing and permanent supportive housing solutions
- Access to mental health and physical health services

Funding Exclusions

Please note these common exclusions:

- We do not fund programs related to the overall operation and management of a non-profit entity.
- Funding one year does not automatically guarantee funding the following year.
- We do not fund travel of any kind, school sports teams, individuals, parent teacher organizations, rotary clubs, and capital campaigns.

We are also unable to support the following types of requests:

- Political candidates, parties, campaigns or causes.
- 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

Interest Form: 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 (about 3 months) prior** to your event (required)
- Sponsorship information, as applicable
- Specific amount requested, up to \$5,000

Sponsorship requests are reviewed on a **quarterly basis**. 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.

Available funding to fulfill requests is budgeted on a quarterly basis. Once all funds are allocated for that quarter, no more requests will be considered. *While we require a minimum of 90 days (about 3 months) in advance of your request deadline, we recommend 180 days (about 6 months).*

Grant applications are by invitation only and are only available to those that participate in financial wellness education and/or volunteer programming with Desert Financial.

Reporting: Upon receiving an event sponsorship from Desert Financial, it is required that the organization completes the [Event Sponsorship Recap Report](#) within 60 days (about 2 months) post-event. For any donation related to an interest form submission, Desert Financial requests information and data related to the impact of funds within 90 days (about 3 months) of funding.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I partner with or request support from 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 and the capacity for the volunteer opportunity. When submitting a request, please ensure:

- 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 can I get information about financial wellness education?

Please visit the [Desert Financial](#) 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.