



GRANTMAKING POLICY

The mission of the Mary E. Bivins Foundation is to enrich the quality of life in the Texas Panhandle by supporting the elderly, funding the education of Christian ministers, and addressing critical community needs.

PHILANTHROPIC OBJECTIVE

The Mary E. Bivins Foundation's main philanthropic objective is to enrich the quality of life for older residents who live in the Texas Panhandle (top twenty-six counties).

The top twenty-six counties of the Texas Panhandle are Armstrong, Briscoe, Carson, Castro, Childress, Collingsworth, Dallam, Deaf Smith, Donley, Gray, Hall, Hansford, Hartley, Hemphill, Hutchinson, Lipscomb, Moore, Ochiltree, Oldham, Parmer, Potter, Randall, Roberts, Sherman, Swisher, and Wheeler.

Geographic Guidelines	
Organization located in and grant funds for the benefit of the residents and communities of the Texas Panhandle	High priority
Organization located outside of but grant funds for the benefit of the residents and communities of the Texas Panhandle	Low priority
Project serving individuals located outside of the top twenty-six counties of the Texas Panhandle	Will not fund

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

To be eligible for funding the applicant organization must:

- Be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that is classified as a public charity per Section 509(a)(1) or Section 509(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code.
 - This includes entities classified as a political subdivision of the State of Texas (i.e. governmental unit such as a county, city, town, or special district such as a school district, hospital district, etc.) per Section 170(b)(1)(A)(v) and tax exempt per Section 170(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code.

An entity that is not eligible must have an eligible fiscal sponsor.

- Organizations that utilize a fiscal sponsor must (1) follow the Grantmaking Policy; (2) ask for funds for a charitable project; (3) be independent (i.e. not part of an organization that has an entity eligible to apply for grants such as universities, school districts, cities, etc.) and (4) follow the Fiscal Sponsorship Policy.

The Foundation cannot grant funds to a 509(a)(3) (i.e. support) organization.

MINIMUM GRANT AMOUNT

In general, the Foundation will not consider a grant request for less than \$5,000.



The Mary E. Bivins Foundation will consider grant requests that follow the guidelines and address critical community needs; however, the Foundation will give preference to proposals that address the following areas of focus.

Preferred Areas of Focus	
• Basic Human Needs	• Safe and affordable housing and/or shelter • Affordable, nutritious, and accessible food • Affordable and comprehensive health care (which includes mental health)
• Education	• Educational programs for older adults • Quality early childhood education • Literacy • Parenting Education • Career readiness • Underserved areas and/or populations
• Human Services	Especially projects that provide social services to • Older adults (such as residential care, adult day care programs, in-home care, etc.) or • Vulnerable populations (a population group at greater risk of exclusion, prejudice, or negative outcomes as a result of a specific characteristic such as poverty, disability, ethnicity, language, or situation such as grandparent raising grandchildren, socially isolated senior, senior at-risk of being a victim of elder abuse, etc.).
• Youth Development	Programs and efforts which prepare young people to meet the challenges of adolescence and adulthood.

Please note that projects that further the Foundation’s primary philanthropic objective to enrich the quality of life for older residents who live in the Texas Panhandle AND address an area of focus will be considered top priority.



FUNDING GUIDELINES

Preference is given to requests that further the Foundation's primary philanthropic objective to enrich the quality of life for older residents who live in the Texas Panhandle.

Organizations should not request funds more than once in a 12-month period.

The Bivins Foundation will only consider one request at a time from each organization no matter how many programs, departments, etc. it has. In addition, only one application at a time will be considered from each system (e.g. university, school district, etc.) no matter how many unique organizations exist within the overall system.

An organization is defined as a single entity that has an IRS approved tax exempt designation. To verify eligibility, Foundation staff utilizes

- (1) the organization's federally assigned Employee Identification Number to verify that the organization is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit or
- (2) a governmental information letter that defines an organization as a governmental entity and/or political subdivision exempt from taxation.

The Board will not consider a request from an organization that has an open grant. All grant requirements, including reports, must be complete before an organization is eligible to apply again.

FUNDING EXCLUSIONS	
The Bivins Foundation will not grant funds for the following.	
•	An individual or for an individual/s benefit
•	Political lobbying or legislative activities
•	Capital projects or campaigns of area churches for building and facility projects

LOW PRIORITY PROJECTS	
The Bivins Foundation considers the following as low priorities for funding.	
•	Conferences, workshops, seminars, symposia, etc.
•	Publications, videos, etc.
•	Tax support replacement or projects that could be supported through taxes
•	Travel, tours, trips, etc.
•	Private schools that do not primarily serve underserved areas and/or populations

Organizations should provide evidence of community support for the request, ability to work with other agencies, minimization of duplication of services, and evidence of ability to accomplish and evaluate the outcomes identified. Evidence-based programs are valued.



PRIORITY BY TYPE OF SUPPORT

Type of support		
Capacity building / technical assistance	Allow grantees to participate in activities to strengthen the organization	High priority
Collaborative grants	Join with like-minded funders to support a large or complex project that no one funder can effectively address alone	High priority
Matching/challenge grants	Encourage an organization to raise money through other sources	High priority
Program support	Support for a specific set of activities with clear parameters	High priority
Capital grants*	Finance construction, renovation, or equipment	Medium priority
General operating support	Funds that can be used at the organization's discretion to support operations (also called annual operation or overhead)	Medium priority
Scholarships**	To support educational endeavors which specifically assist students in gaining academic skills that prepare them to work with a geriatric population especially geriatric care and services	Medium priority
Endowments	Establish or increase an endowment	Low priority
Immediate needs	To respond to an immediate community need	Low priority
Salary support	Funds to be used to pay ongoing salaries	Low priority
Seed money	To launch a new organization (i.e. less than three years' of operations) or support a brand new endeavor that is not evidence-based	Low priority
Debt reduction	To pay off debt or to reduce an operating deficit	Will not fund
Emergency funds	To address an organizational crisis	Will not fund
Fundraising activities	Annual campaigns, courtesy advertising, benefit tickets, special events, telephone solicitations, etc.	Will not fund
Program related investments	Give access to capital through low-interest loans, loan guarantees, or equity investments	Will not fund
Research	Scientific research projects	Will not fund

*Capital campaigns of area nursing homes and assisted living facilities for building/facility projects are a low priority.

**Individuals seeking scholarship assistance should refer to the Foundation's Religious Scholarship Program.

Organizations are strongly encouraged to contact the Foundation at 806.379.9400 to schedule a meeting prior to submitting an application. The meeting is extremely helpful for both the applicant and the Foundation as the proposed project can be discussed and any questions regarding the process can be answered.

Preference is given to requests that further the Foundation's primary philanthropic objective to enrich the quality of life for older residents who live in the Texas Panhandle.