



FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions



1. What are FCV's focus areas?

FCV focuses on the intersection of economic opportunity, environmental health, and social capital. We hope that these areas offer broad strategic opportunities, bringing about positive change within communities FCV serves (Crow, Northern Cheyenne, and the Blackfeet).

2. What type of grants does FCV award?

FCV grants are administered through a few types of grants: immediate relief and small community funds, general operating funds and capacity support, and leadership scholarships.

3. How does FCV support beyond the grant?

Ultimately, we want to support our partners to fulfil their mission for their community. If this can't be accomplished solely through grants (as FCV has limited funds), we hope to help our partners beyond financial support:

- This comes through active listening and offering as a supportive sounding board offering a perspective from someone who's on their team.
- We have offered to facilitate meetings (strategic planning, peer-to-peer gatherings, etc.)
- We can assist in supporting larger initiatives, broadening shareholder relations and bridging internal capacity needs with outside partners, bringing advisors directly to our partners (ex. paying for experts to come on site or hire short-term capacity support).
- As well, we have attended outside meetings to help offer another ear to support our partners' learnings on important issues.
- We collaborate with other funding organizations, help with matching grants or leverage funding needs with other partners to get them funding in Native Nations.

4. Why are FCV grants by invitation only?

As a small foundation, we feel we cannot adequately evaluate proposals from organizations that are not directly familiar to us. Our hope is to understand through positive relationships what communities, not-for-profit organizations, and leaders want to do to improve community vitality. Our experience has been that our most successful grants have been to groups with which one or more Trustees are closely acquainted.

If you are a new partner – we offer small introductory grants. Ultimately, if you work in the geographies that we serve, it is best to get an introduction from one of our existing partners as we believe through collaboration and transparency we can support and serve more communities together.

5. Does FCV award multi-year grants?

Occasionally, but only after FCV and the requesting organization have had a longstanding and transparent relationship. It is important for us to understand if a non-profit has multi-year granting needs.

6. What kind of reporting is required if a grant is awarded?

Within the grant application, we ask our partners to set their own goals for their grant. Once the grant is fully spent, we then ask our partners to review these goals and offer reflection.

7. What organizations are eligible for grants?

FCV funds 501(c)(3) charities only. Individuals are not eligible. We only fund in the U.S. with a focus on Montana and Wyoming. Priority goes to non-profit organizations based on Native American reservations.