



“WELCOMING COMMUNITY” GRANT APPLICATION

The Columbus Area Future Fund is accepting grant applications to help welcome new residents to our communities. A sense of belonging to a community is an essential component of keeping new residents here. We all benefit when we help new residents feel like they belong in our neighborhoods, in our schools, in our organizations, at work, in our places of worship and more. This grant allows individuals and groups to request dollars for a project they believe will help welcome people and creating belonging to our communities.

What about: a neighborhood gathering, a cup of coffee with a new resident, or something bigger like a community celebration or free memberships to a community organization. Maybe you'll use some funds to form an interest group for newcomers like an exercise group, card club, golf, outdoor adventure, or walking club. Maybe you'll use a grant to create a welcome packet that includes coupons to local businesses or a newcomer's passport. Be creative – how can you or your organization/business/school help our new residents become a true member of our community?

The Future Fund is allocating \$35,000 to this challenge – Grant requests can range from \$1 to \$35,000.

Application Due – April 30th, 2024

Return grant form to: Deb Loseke
Columbus Area Future Fund
PO Box 1734
Columbus, NE 68601
director@columbusareafuturefund.org
402-606-6783

Contact Name: _____

Title: _____

Business/Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Contact Email: _____

Phone: _____

Brief Description of your Welcoming/Belonging Project/Plan:

Dollar Amount Requested for the project: _____

Project Start Date: _____

How do you think this project will make a difference with new residents to help them find a sense of belonging?

Will you sustain these efforts with new residents after the grant dollars run out? If so, how?

THANK YOU FOR SUBMITTING A GRANT THROUGH THE COLUMBUS AREA FUTURE FUND!

If awarded, grant recipients will be required to submit a brief project report within 30 days of project completion & a complete report within 90 days of project completion.

This report should provide:

- A summary of activities completed with grant funding and objectives achieved
- Number of participants engaged/reached
- Quotes or testimonials from new residents about the impact of the funded project
- Quantitative data illustrating project outcomes (e.g. number of people attended an event, number of welcome packets distributed, number of new members in a group)
- An overview of actual expenses compared to the proposed budget
- Photos highlighting grant activities and new residents engaged

The final report will help demonstrate how grant funds furthered the Columbus Area Future Fund's goal of welcoming and fostering belonging among new community members. We thank you in advance for helping assess the impact of our funding.