

Centre Foundation's 2026 Grant Information Session

Your Hosts

- Krista Williams, Grants and Scholarship Coordinator
- Nathaniel Rasmussen, Community Impact Director

Agenda

- Grantee Eligibility
- Accessing the Grant Portal
- Grant Opportunities for Organizations
- Other Ways to Partner with Centre Foundation

Centre Foundation

Community Foundation serving Centre County since 1981

Our mission: Centre Foundation fosters a culture of giving, supports and empowers nonprofits, and sparks positive community change.

Over \$5m invested in our community annually through programs, scholarships, and grants

Our Team



Dave Lieb
President and CEO



Carrie Ryan
CFO/COO



Kerry Tolton
Development and Stewardship Director



Andrea Walter
Accounting Director



Melissa Lopata
Marketing and
Communications Director



Krista Williams
Grants and Scholarship
Coordinator



Maddie Saldaña
Stewardship
Coordinator



Nathaniel Rasmussen
Community Impact Director

Jess Wilson
Front Office Executive
Assistant



Joy Vincent-Killian
Press Forward PA Wilds Director

Grant Eligibility and Guidelines

Grantee Eligibility

- Must be classified as a 501(c)(3) **public charity** under the Internal Revenue Code (this does not apply to government agencies or public-school districts)
- Must file **IRS Form 990** (or 990-EZ or 990-N) annually
- Must register with the **PA Bureau of Charitable Organizations** (BCO-10)
- Must provide services directly to Centre County
- Funded programs must comply with Centre Foundation's [Nondiscrimination Policy](#)
- Must be in good standing with previous Centre Foundation grants

Grantee Eligibility


- Things we **do not** fund:
 - Lobbying or political activities
 - Sectarian religious activities
 - Reimbursement for expenses incurred before grant is awarded
 - Requests from individuals

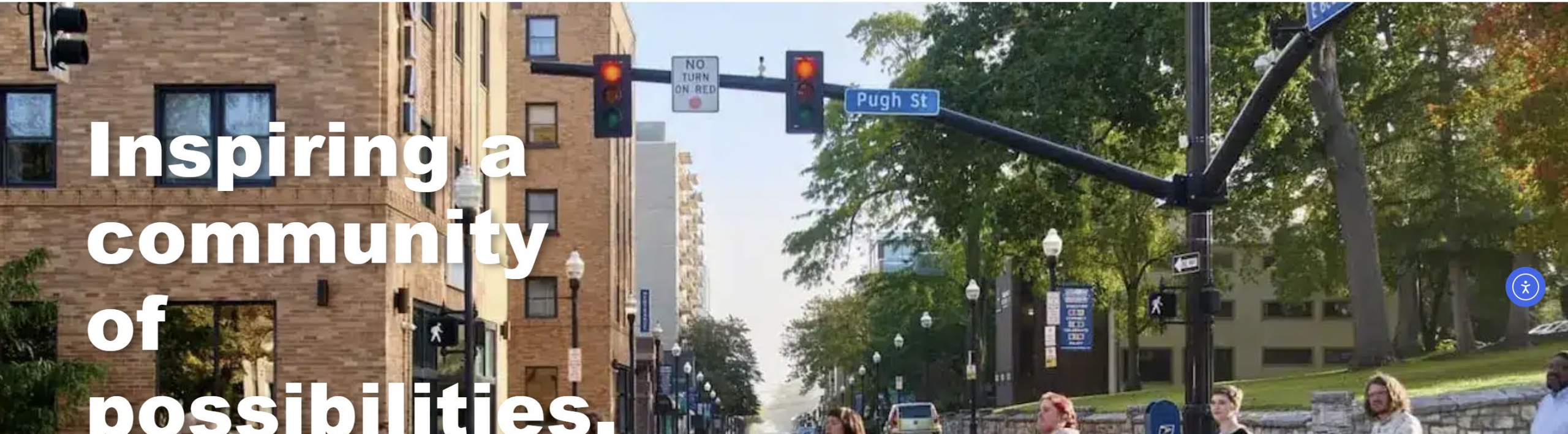
Grant Portal

Accessing the Grant Portal

<http://www.centrefoundation.org/>

Donors Professional Advisors Nonprofits Students Contact Search Login / Register

 Ways to Give **Grants** What We Do Who We Are Get Involved News & Publications [Donate Now](#)



Accessing the Grant Portal



Centre Foundation is committed to grantmaking and non-monetary support that sparks positive change throughout Centre County and beyond.



Grants for Nonprofits

Each year, Centre Foundation distributes over \$250,000 through competitive grant cycles to benefit nonprofit organizations throughout our community. Our grants support a wide array of causes and interest areas, including arts and culture, health and human services, education, animal welfare, and specific geographic regions.

[Explore Grants for Nonprofits](#)

Centre Gives

Nonprofits that serve Centre County are encouraged to join Centre Gives, our 36-hour online giving event. This spectacular giving event has raised over \$19 million for local nonprofits since 2012.

[Learn More About Centre Gives](#)

Grants for Artists

Through a unique partnership with the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, Centre Foundation provides funding to support artists and creative entrepreneurs in Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, and Huntingdon Counties.

Training and Resources

In addition to grantmaking, Centre Foundation is proud to offer a wide variety of non-monetary resources for your nonprofit organization, including opportunities for training, networking and more.

[View Training & Resources](#)

Endowments

We help nonprofits sustain their charitable missions forever through organizational endowment funds held right here at Centre Foundation. By partnering with us, your organization will benefit from our financial stability, professional fund management, and donor support services, including the ability to accept complex charitable gifts.

[Learn More About Ways to Give](#)

Scholarships

Centre Foundation administers a variety of scholarships to support the education of students in all Centre County school districts, students from certain school districts outside of Centre County, current college students, and returning adult students.



Accessing the Grant Portal

Giving Circle Grant

Centre Foundation's Giving Circle supports dynamic community projects and programs in Centre County. The group meets at an annual reception to vote on which of three finalist organizations will receive a \$10,000+ grant.

[Learn More](#)



Funding Area: All Funding Areas

Status: Closed

Open Date: July 8

Close Date: August 21

Field-of-Interest Grants

Centre Foundation's Field-of-Interest funds each support a particular cause,

Funding Area: All Funding Areas

Status: Closed

Accessing the Grant Portal

Process and Timeline

Grant applications open on July 8 and close on August 21. All applications will be reviewed by members of the Giving Circle. Three applicants will be selected to advance to the final round on or before September 26.

If selected as a grant finalist, one or two representatives from the applicant organization must attend the Giving Circle reception on October 14. During this exciting live event, finalists present five-minute pitches to the full membership. Based on these pitches, and before the night is over, members vote to determine grant awards. While all finalists will receive grants, only the top finalist will be awarded a \$10,000+ grant

Finalists must provide an interim project update to the Giving Circle in Summer 2026.

How to Apply

Applications must be submitted through Foundant, Centre Foundation's **online application portal**. If this is your organization's first application with Centre Foundation, you will need to **create an account**. To apply, you'll login to the portal with your email and password.

If you have any questions, please contact Krista Williams, Grants and Scholarship Coordinator, at (814) 237-6229 or krista@centrefoundation.org

Log On Screen



Logon

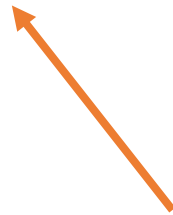
Email Address*

Password*

Log On

Create New Account

[Forgot your Password?](#)




Welcome to Centre Foundation's online grant portal.


New Users: Please click on "Create New Account" to complete the registration process and create your logon credentials. For guidance on creating your account and using this system, view [this tutorial](#).

Existing Users: Please enter your credentials and log in. If you forgot your password, please use the "Forgot your Password?" link to the left to reset your password.

Not Sure? If you think that you or someone at your organization has already registered in the system, do not create a new account. Please contact Krista Williams at krista@centrefoundation.org or (814) 237-6229 to receive your username.

Creating a New Account

 Using the browser's back button will delete your registration information.

 This registration process has multiple steps you must complete before you can apply.

Fields with an asterisk (*) are required.

Organization Information

Organization Name*

If applying for a Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator Program grant, please enter your **business name**.

Web Site

Organization Email

Address 2

State*

EIN / Tax ID (##-#####)*

If applying for a Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator Program grant, please enter your **Business EIN / Tax ID** or **00-0000000** if you have not yet formed a business.

Telephone Number (###-###-####)*

Address 1*

City*

Postal Code*

Next >

Grant Portal Features

- Apply for grants, view grant history, and submit follow-ups
- Preview grant application questions
- Auto-Save
- Collaborate with colleagues
- Option to receive Foundation staff feedback – must submit application at least two weeks before final deadline

Dashboard

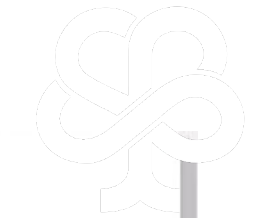


SANDBOX



APPLY

ORGANIZATION HISTORY



Centre FOUNDATION

SEE OPPORTUNITIES

Access College Foundation

Quick search

ASSIGNED TO YOU (4)

UPCOMING (2)

Progress Report

Past Due
10/25/2024

Fall Grant Cycle

Start

Application

Past Due
11/02/2024

Spring Grant Cycle

Continue

Application

Open

Spring Grant Cycle 2024

Continue

LOI

Due Soon
11/30/2024

Continue

Action Needed (4)

Fall Grant Cycle

Progress Report

Past Due
10/25/2024

Final Report - Fall Grant Cycle

Past Due
11/07/2024

Grant Agreement - Fall Grant Cycle

Due Soon
11/30/2024

1 Document

Spring Grant Cycle

Application

Past Due
11/02/2024

No Action (4)

Fall Grant Cycle

Application

Submitted
06/30/2020

Summer Grant Cycle

LOI

Approved
11/20/2023

Fall Grant Cycle 2024

Application

Submitted
10/31/2024

Fall Grant Cycle 2024

Historical (2)

Fall Grant Cycle 2024

University Studies

Abandoned
10/31/2024

1 Document

Fall Grant Cycle

First Generation college support

Closed
03/28/2023

1 Document

Apply Page



Giving Circle (2025) Accepting Submissions from 06/10/2025 to 08/21/2025

Apply

Giving CIRCLE A Program of CENTRE FOUNDATION

The Giving Circle grant program is made possible by the Giving Circle, Centre Foundation's membership-based group of community-minded individuals who pool their resources to support dynamic programs and projects in Centre County. The group meets at an annual reception to vote on which of three finalist organizations will receive a \$10,000+ grant. [Learn more here.](#)

This opportunity is open to 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organizations. Grants typically range from \$2,500 - \$15,000 and may support new or existing projects and programs that positively benefit Centre County. Before you begin, review the [2025 Giving Circle Grant Guidelines](#), which include application questions, important dates, and more.

Please note: Organizations are eligible to receive a Giving Circle grant once every three years (Giving Circle finalists must skip two years before re-applying).

Program Guidelines:

Before you begin, review the [2025 Giving Circle Grant Guidelines](#) and our [Nondiscrimination Policy](#).

Instructions and Tips:

- Answer all questions completely and accurately. Fields marked with * are required.
- Write your responses as if reader has never heard of your organization. Giving Circle members come from all backgrounds and may not be familiar with your organization or the work it does.
- Please note that questions on the application have character count limits. Spaces count as characters.
- You may save your work and return to complete the application at a later time.

Due Date and Assistance:

- Applications are due by 11:59 pm on **Thursday, August 21, 2025**.
- If you need any assistance, please contact Krista Williams, Grants and Scholarship Coordinator, at krista@centrefoundation.org or call (814) 237-6229.

👁️ Preview

Grants & Community Impact Opportunities



Centre Inspires

Centre Inspires

- Letter of Intent opens **June 8** and closes **July 9**
- Open to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, governmental units/agencies. Unincorporated groups may apply through a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that acts as a fiscal sponsor
- To support innovative projects that have a significant impact in Centre County
- Centre Foundation will award \$100,000 in grant funding to support one successful proposal
- After first round of proposals are reviewed, those that make it to Round 2 will be asked to complete a detailed application

Centre Inspires

- ACRES Aquaponics - 2019
- The Rivet - 2018
- Good Day Café - 2017
- Centred Outdoors - 2016
- Food Centres - 2015
- Book Benches - 2014

Centre Inspires Timeline

- **Monday, June 8, 2026** – Centre Inspires Round One (LOI) online application form opens.
- **Thursday, July 9, 2026**– LOIs are due.
- **Monday, July 20, 2026** – Applicants selected to proceed are notified and invited to submit a full application.
- **Tuesday, September 1, 2026**– Round Two full applications are due.
- **Thursday, October 8, 2026** – Selected Applications make 1st presentations.
- **Monday, October 12, 2026** – Finalists are notified.
- **Thursday October 22, 2026, 5:00-7:00 pm** – Finalists present to Centre Foundation’s Board in person at Old Gregg School in Spring Mills.
- **Tuesday, December 8, 2026** – Centre Inspires grant recipient will be announced at Centre Foundation’s Annual Holiday Party. At least one representative from your organization must be present.

Centre Inspires Questions?



**Centre Circle
Grants**

Giving Circle

- Centre Foundation's membership-based grantmaking group
- Members pool their resources to award grants to Centre County nonprofits
- Since 2006, the Giving Circle has awarded over **\$267,000** in grants
- Interested in joining? Visit our website or contact Kerry Tolton, Development and Stewardship Director, Kerry@centrefoundation.org

Giving Circle Grants

- Application opens **July 7** and closes **August 20**
- Deadline to receive feedback: August 6
- Open to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations for dynamic programs & projects serving Centre County
- Three finalists present live pitches to the Giving Circle membership
- Provides one \$10,000+ grant and two grants for runners-up
- Finalists must skip two years before reapplying

2025 Giving Circle Finalists

- Centre LifeLink EMS, Inc. – *Ambulance Licensure Equipment*
- Sleep in Heavenly Peace – *No Kid Sleeps on the Floor in our Town!*
- Centre Volunteers in Medicine – *Rapid Point-of-Care Lab Expansion*

2024 Giving Circle Finalists

- The Makery of Central Pennsylvania – *Joyful Job Training for Teens*
- Interfaith Human Services – *Emergency Vehicle Repair*
- Centre Care Volunteers – *Resident Greenhouses*

Field of Interest Grants



Field-of-Interest (FOI) Endowment Funds

- Centre Foundation manages 26 field-of-interest funds
- Each FOI fund supports a particular cause or geographic area, spanning health and social services, education, youth development, animal welfare, the arts, and more
- **\$183,130** was awarded to 40 nonprofits in 2025

Field-of-Interest Grants

- Application opens **August 4** and closes **September 24**
- Deadline to receive feedback: September 10
- Open to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, government agencies, municipalities and public-school districts. Unincorporated groups may apply through a 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor.
- Applicants may submit more than one application for separate programs or projects
- Some FOI funds overlap; applicants are encouraged to request funding from multiple (relevant) funds

Health & Human Services

- Counseling Service, Inc. Fund for the Provision of Direct Behavioral/ Mental Health Counseling
- Ed and Charlene Friedman Family Fund for Housing, Food, and Health Services and Programs that Alleviate Poverty
- J. Alvin and Vera E. Knepper Hawbaker Memorial for Vital Health and Education Services
- William W. and Helen S. Litke Memorial Fund for Services and Programs for Individuals Who Have Hearing Loss
- Denny Gioia and Judy Albrecht Endowment Fund for Services and Programs in the areas of Housing Insecurity, Food Insecurity and Health
- Wayne Baumgardner Fund to provide food to the residents of Pleasant Gap
- Connor-Grignano Family Fund for programs that provide services in the area(s) of healthcare and early childhood education – **New 2026**
- Recovery Support Fund for programs that focus on research, education or treatment of substance abuse disorders – **New 2026**
- State College Elks Loge #1600 Veterans Program Fund for services and programs that support veterans in Centre County and surrounding counties – **New 2026**



Children & Youth

- Centre Children's Fund for At-Risk or Underserved Children
- Centre County Medical Society Fund for Promoting Healthy Lifestyles in Children and/or Building Playground Equipment
- Louis E. and Patricia H. Silvi Fund for Early Childhood Education
- Barry and Patti Fisher Fund supports programs for children ages 11-17
- State College Elks Lodge #1600 Youth Activities Fund for services and programs that support youth activities in Centre County – **New 2026**

Arts & Culture

- Janet Atwood Fund for Arts Programs of Any Type
- Patricia Farrell Music Fund
- Proud to Be An American Fund for Patriotic Displays and Observances

Animals

- Carolyn A. Petrus Memorial Seeing Eye Dog Fund
- Donna L. Litke Occupational Horse Therapy Fund
- Mattil Family Fund for Animal Welfare
- Fur-Ever Support for Animals Fund

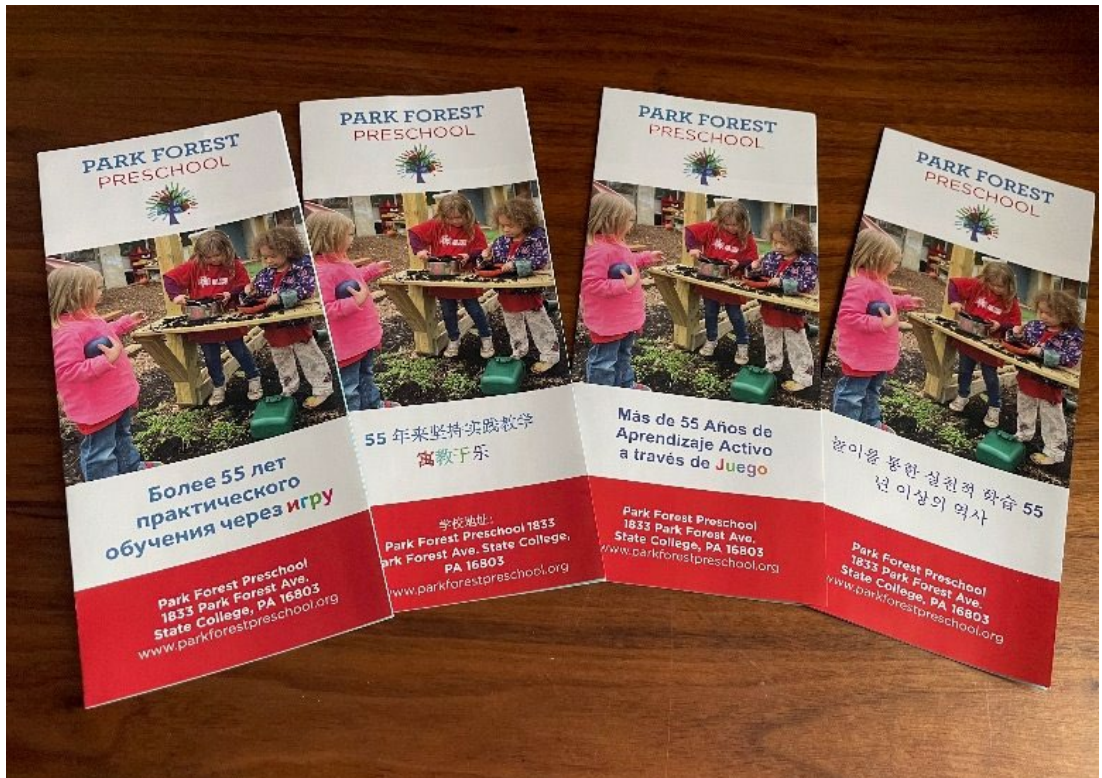
Geographic Focus

- Philipsburg Area Fund
- Andrew and Madaline Rishel Family Fund Penns Valley Church Outreach Programs
- Ruth E. Rishel Charitable Fund for Penns Valley
- Howard Area Lighthouse Fund for Programs and Projects in Howard

General Purpose

- Ben Franklin Fund for Projects or Programs in Centre, Clearfield, Huntingdon, and Mifflin counties

Equitable and Inclusive Communities Fund



Equitable & Inclusive Communities Grant

- Application opens **September 29** and closes **November 12**
- Deadline to receive feedback: October 29
- Open to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, government agencies, municipalities and public-school districts. Unincorporated groups may apply through a 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor.
- The Equitable and Inclusive Communities Fund was established in 2024 and is designed to support the advancement of equity-centered leadership and capacity building and address issues of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging in Centre County.

2025 EIC Grant Recipients

- **Centre LGBT+** for their Pride Mind program which promotes the emotional well-being of LGBT+ individuals
- **Mid-State Literacy Council, Inc.** to support cross-cultural communication and connection
- **Go ReEntry Specialists, Inc.** for their reentry strategy group for incarcerated individuals

Centre PACT Grants



Centre
FOUNDATION

Centre PACT

- Centre Foundation's youth advisory council for Centre County high school students
- Participants discuss issues facing their peers, learn about potential solutions that nonprofits offer, fundraise, and fund local programs
- Since 2016, members of Centre PACT raised and granted over **\$77,000** to 37 local nonprofits
- Have a student in grades 9-12 who might be interested? Contact Krista Williams, krista@centrefoundation.org

Centre PACT Grants

- Application opens **November 24, 2026** and closes **January 7, 2027**
- Deadline to receive feedback: December 24
- Open to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations for projects and programs that serve young people (Pre-K–12) in Centre County
- Grant awards typically range from \$500 – \$3,000
- Priorities shift annually but typically include mental health, school safety, and equitable educational opportunities

Scholarships for Individuals

Scholarships



Scholarships

- Centre Foundation administers more than **150 scholarships and awards** for school districts across Centre County and beyond
- Over **\$450,000** awarded last year
- Opportunities for high school seniors, adult learners, first responders, and more
- Contact Krista Williams, Grants and Scholarship Coordinator, Krista@centrefoundation.org or your high school's guidance office for more information

Other Ways to Partner with Centre Foundation



Centre
FOUNDATION

Endowment Funds

Endowment Funds

- Serving the organizations and individuals who are passionate about the future of Centre County
- Endowments provide consistent, long-term funding for your organization
- Centre Foundation handles administration of endowments, including investment oversight, donation processing, and donor acknowledgement, etc.
- Any 501(c)(3) public charity is eligible to open an endowment with Centre Foundation
- Contact Kerry Tolton, Development and Stewardship Director, Kerry@centrefoundation.org

Get in touch!

Centre Foundation

Web: www.centrefoundation.org

Phone: (814) 237-6229

Grants and Scholarships: Krista Williams, Krista@centrefoundation.org

Endowments and Donors: Kerry Tolton, Kerry@centrefoundation.org

Centre Gives and Nonprofit Resources: Nathaniel Rasmussen,
Nathaniel@centrefoundation.org

Questions?

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