

MULTI-YEAR GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT PROGRAM



PROGRAM OVERVIEW (2021-2024)

General operating support is unrestricted funding directed to an organization's operations, rather than to a particular project or initiative. We created this program because we believe that when organizations know that they have multi-year general operating support, they will be more comfortable to take risks, using operating grants to respond to new challenges and opportunities. Overtime, we believe this will contribute to a more resilient and effective social sector. The 2021-2024 cohort consists of three organizations: [Columbia County Community Healthcare Consortium](#), [Community Action Partnership for Dutchess County](#) and [North East Community Center](#).

PURPOSE Strengthen place-based nonprofits ability to meet their mission

SUPPORT PROVIDED

- Three years of general operating support, a total of \$300,000 per grantee partner
- \$15,000 to support technical assistance, individual or mutual learning, professional development, or for another purpose as identified by the grantee partners

OUR PROCESS

When developing the 2021-2024 program, FCH staff developed the following eligibility and selection criteria to first identify eligible organizations and invite selected organizations to participate:

ELIGIBILITY

- The organization is place-based and serves a community within FCH's service area
- The organization has a mission and programs that are consistent with the funding interests of the foundation
- The organization has an annual operating budget between \$1M and \$3M
- The organization has received program restricted funding from the foundation in the last three years

SELECTION

- Organization has historically received little unrestricted funding
- Demonstrated readiness and capacity, as evidenced by at least two years of stable executive leadership and recent organizational and/or programmatic changes
- Priority to organizations that directly serve eastern Dutchess County, given the needs of this area and the foundation's commitment to distribute its resources equitably

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

As the first multi-year general operating support program of FCH, we expect to learn a great deal from the program and our grantee partners. We anticipate that these lessons will not only impact future iterations of this program, but other grant programs of the foundation, existing and yet to be created. The next cohort of this program is anticipated for the summer of 2024. At that time, this program may continue to operate by invitation only or would change to a request for proposals process.

FCH also accepts applications on a rolling basis through its [Opportunistic Grant Program](#), which can be used towards capacity building needs of nonprofit organizations and twice a year through our [Capacity Building Grant Program](#), awards from which can be used towards general operating support or towards capacity building needs.