

THE POWER OF CHANGE **GRANT GUIDELINES**

PURPOSE

The Power of Change (a.k.a. Operation Roundup®) is funded primarily by voluntary contributions from Rappahannock Electric Cooperative (REC) members and from other funds donated for charitable purposes. *The Power of Change* is administered by the Community Awareness of Rappahannock Electric Charity, Inc. (a.k.a., C.A.R.E. Charity, Inc. or C.A.R.E.) which distributes funds per the criteria specified in these guidelines.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Grants generally will be made only to non-profit organizations granted tax-exempt status under IRS Code Section 501 (c) (3) and serving one or more of the counties located within REC's service territory.
2. Grants generally must support one or more of the following categories:
 - a. Community Service.
 - b. Health, Recreation or Safety.
 - c. Education, Youth or the Environment.
3. Due to the limited availability of funds, Grant recipients may not apply for subsequent funding for a period of two (2) years from the Grant cycle in which the Grant was awarded. To be eligible for funding in future Grant cycles, a completed Grant Evaluation Form must be returned within 12 months from the date the Grant was awarded.

RESTRICTIONS

1. Grants will generally not be awarded to/ for:
 - a. Individuals.
 - b. Pets, animals, or organizations related to animals, including animal welfare organizations.
 - c. Lobbying or the election of candidates for office.
 - d. Fund-raising dinners, raffles or other related events.
 - e. Political organizations.
 - f. Sectarian programs of religious organizations (see note at top of Page 2).
 - g. Public and private schools and affiliated organizations.
 - h. Advertising or ongoing operational expenses, including salaries and benefits.
 - i. Capital fund campaigns, national fund drives, or where funds "flow-through" to another agency or organization.

Religious organizations may apply, but funds will only be awarded for programs which serve broad and non-sectarian purposes as demonstrated through their application and supporting documentation (e.g., funds may be awarded to a church, synagogue, mosque or other religious organization to support a food or clothing pantry for the homeless).

EVALUATION FACTORS

1. The following factors will be considered in the evaluation of all funding requests:
 - a. Level of community support for the program or project.
 - b. Potential benefit to area residents and/or the entire community.
 - c. Likelihood that the project will produce results that are quantitative, predictable, sustainable, and can be evaluated.
 - d. How a lack of funding will impact the organization.
 - e. Capability of the organization to deliver quality services or programs, including plans to share grant results with their constituents and the community at large.
2. C.A.R.E. will evaluate funding requests and allocate contributions to accomplish the purposes and intent of these guidelines.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Completed application form.
2. Copy of IRS exemption determination letter, if applicable.
3. Completed Form 990 or Form 990-EZ for organization's most recent tax year, together with proof of filing, or evidence that organization is not required to file.
4. A brief statement discussing how a lack of funding will impact the organization's ability to deliver services.
5. Detailed budget showing how requested funds will be spent.
6. If the organization is a REC member, it must agree to participate in *The Power of Change* program by rounding-up its electric bill.
7. Specific strategies as to how the organization will help spread the good news about *The Power of Change* and the importance of all REC members making voluntary monthly contributions.

RETURN TO/NOTIFICATION

Submit completed application form and supporting documents to:

The Power of Change
Rappahannock Electric Cooperative
P O Box 7388
Fredericksburg, VA 22404

Rappahannock Electric Cooperative will notify applicants of grant approval status as soon as possible. Inquiries may be made by calling (800) 552-3904 or (540) 898-8500 or by email to Cynthia Ellis at cellis@myrec.coop.

The Power of Change Application Deadlines are published in *Cooperative Living* magazine.

Approved: January 3, 2017