

Capital Grants Policy: Green Buildings

Capital grants are made only to nonprofit organizations in Greater Cleveland that would otherwise qualify for grants based on the Foundation's guidelines and priorities. Projects requesting capital funding also must seek certification under the U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards. Potential grantees are encouraged to contact the appropriate program officer before submitting a capital request to see if their project qualifies.

The Foundation's goal in requiring organizations that apply for capital grants to adopt green building principles is to encourage and support the development of green buildings in Greater Cleveland for their environmental, health and economic benefits. New construction projects must seek LEED Silver certification or higher. Renovation projects must seek designation as LEED Certified or higher.

Applications for capital grants should submit

- Letter signed by the board chair or CEO confirming registration of the project with USGBC's LEED program and stating the organization's commitment to adopt green building principles and pursue the appropriate level LEED certification.
- A preliminary LEED checklist showing potential points towards certification.
- Designation of a "green champion" for the project—a person who has the appropriate authority within the organization to shepherd the integrated design process from project conception to completion. This staff person or volunteer is the institutional champion for designing a green building and is involved in all aspects of project planning.

Organizations may also apply for planning grants to assist in the research, planning, design, commissioning and LEED documentation of green elements of a building. Planning grants may be used for design charrettes, integrated design process review, planning stages of building commissioning, LEED application/documentation and/or modeling/life cycle costing. Award of a planning grant is not a required precursor for seeking a capital grant nor does receipt of a planning grant imply that a capital grant will be awarded.

Applicants for a planning grant should submit:

- Letter signed by the board chair or CEO confirming registration of the project with USGBC's LEED program and stating the organization's commitment to adopt green building principles and pursue the appropriate level LEED certification.

- Designation of a “green champion” for the project—a person who has the appropriate authority within the organization to shepherd the integrated design project from conception to completion. This staff person or volunteer is the institutional champion for designing a green building and is involved in all aspects of project planning.
- Budget for planning elements.