



2026 Grant Programs Informational Meeting



Giving Together for the Flathead Valley

Alan Davis

President & CEO



Excellence. Accountability. Impact.™

Dedicated to fostering philanthropy, building endowments, and helping donors and nonprofits benefit the greater Flathead Valley.

- 501(c)3 nonprofit organization
- Founded in 2000 – 6 full-time staff, 17 volunteer Board members
- Accredited by the Community Foundation National Standards
- **\$88M+** in charitable assets



Dedicated to helping nonprofits benefit our community.

- Nonprofit Development Program
- Competitive Grants – Community Grants, **Great Fish Community Challenge**, Major Grants, Emergency Response Grants, & Kids Fund
- Nonprofit Endowment Funds - **\$30M in assets**
- Total granting to other nonprofits since 2000: **\$120 million**
- Granting in 2025: **\$21 million**



Dedicated to helping donors benefit our community.

- Circle of Giving Donor Program
- Donor Advised Funds - **\$48M+** in DAF Assets
- Designated Funds – IRA/QCD's
- Donor Advised Endowment Funds
- Legacy Funds



- **25th Anniversary Goals**

1. Raise the awareness of WCF across the Flathead Valley
2. Generate a bigger impact in celebration of 25 years
3. Inspire donors to give

- **25th Anniversary Fundraising Initiatives**

1. Secure 250 Circle of Giving Donors
2. Raise \$3M for WCF Operating Endowment
3. Distribute \$500k in Major Community Project Grants
4. Grow Donor Advised Fund accounts and assets

25th Anniversary Year in Review

Generate a bigger impact in celebration of 25 years

**Great Fish Community Challenge:
\$8.1 Million for 85 Nonprofits in 2025!**



25th Anniversary Year in Review

Generate a bigger impact in celebration of 25 years

**Major Community Project Grants:
\$430,000 for 6 Nonprofits in 2025!**



25th Anniversary Year in Review

Generate a bigger impact in celebration of 25 years

**Kids Fund Grants:
\$210,000 for 6 Nonprofits in 2025!**



25th Anniversary Year in Review

Generate a bigger impact in celebration of 25 years

**Emergency Response Fund Grants:
\$156,705 for 15 Nonprofits in 2025!**



25th Anniversary Year in Review

Generate a bigger impact in celebration of 25 years

**Community Grants:
\$372,750 to 49 Nonprofits in 2025!**

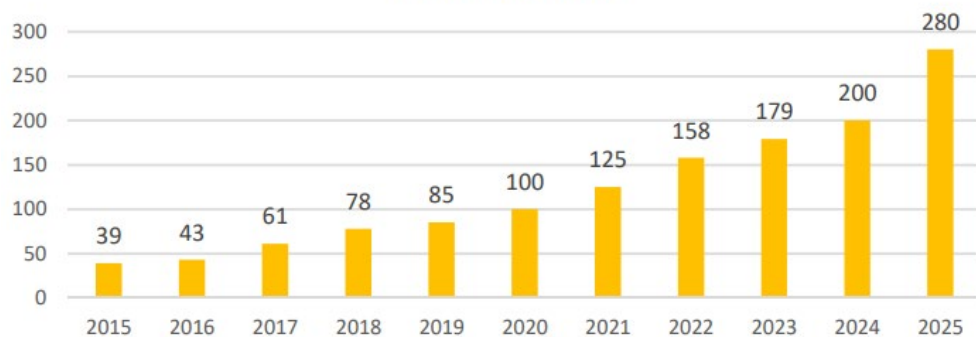


Circle of Giving

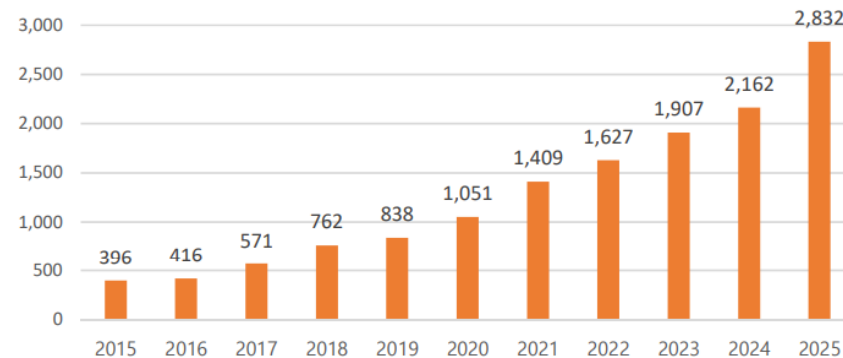


- Core group of donors who give \$5,000 or more annually to support the grant programs and mission of the Foundation
- 25th Anniversary Goal: **250 Donors**
- Simplifies giving – one gift supports entire nonprofit community
- Inspires giving - **Great Fish Match Fund**

Total # Donors

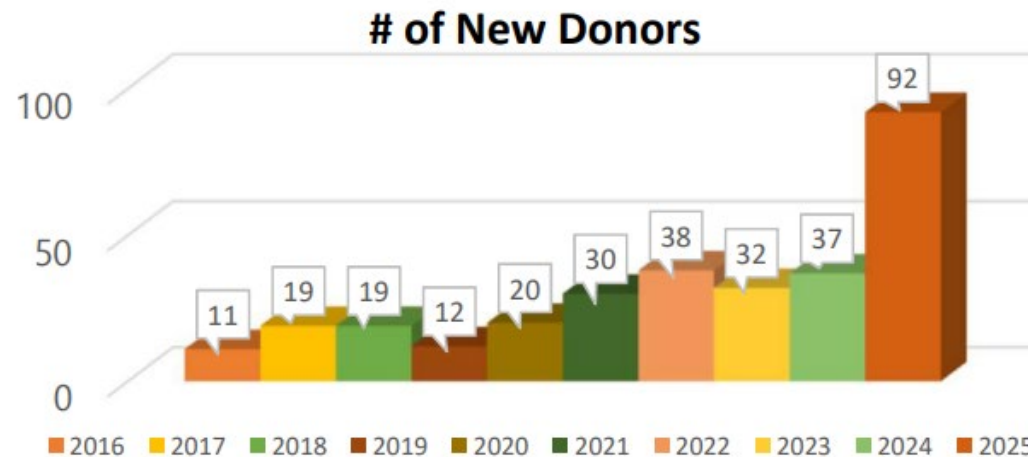
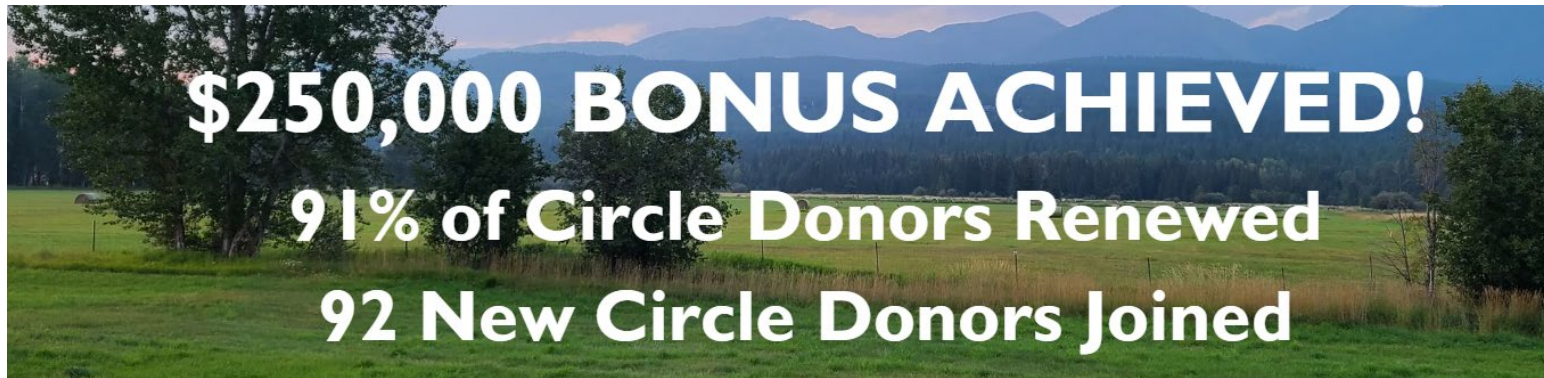


Total Raised



25th Anniversary Year in Review

Inspire Donors to GIVE



25th Anniversary Year in Review

Inspire Donors to GIVE

\$3M RAISED FOR WCF ENDOWMENT!

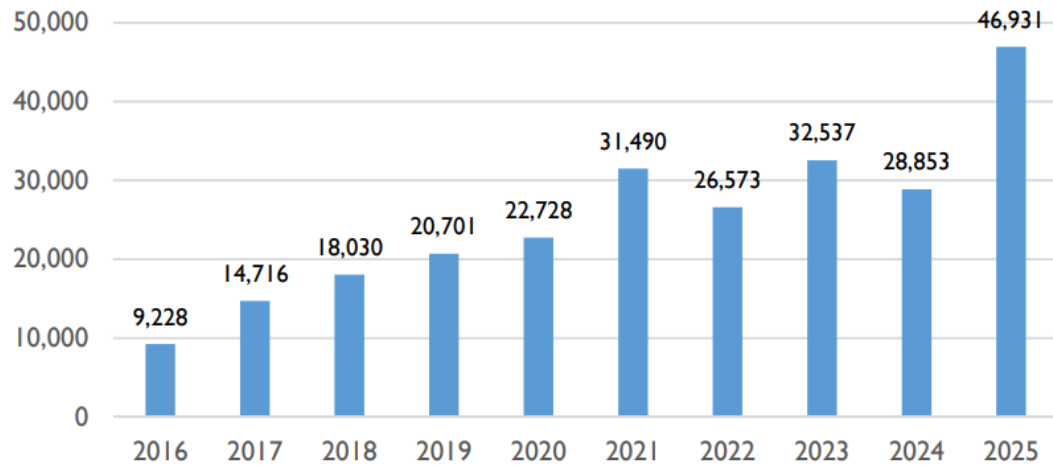
Whitefish Community Foundation's Endowment Fund grew by \$3M, thanks to the success of a 1:1 match challenge

Our endowment distribution covers our administrative overhead, ensuring that 100% of your donation supports local nonprofit programs, including the Great Fish Community Challenge.

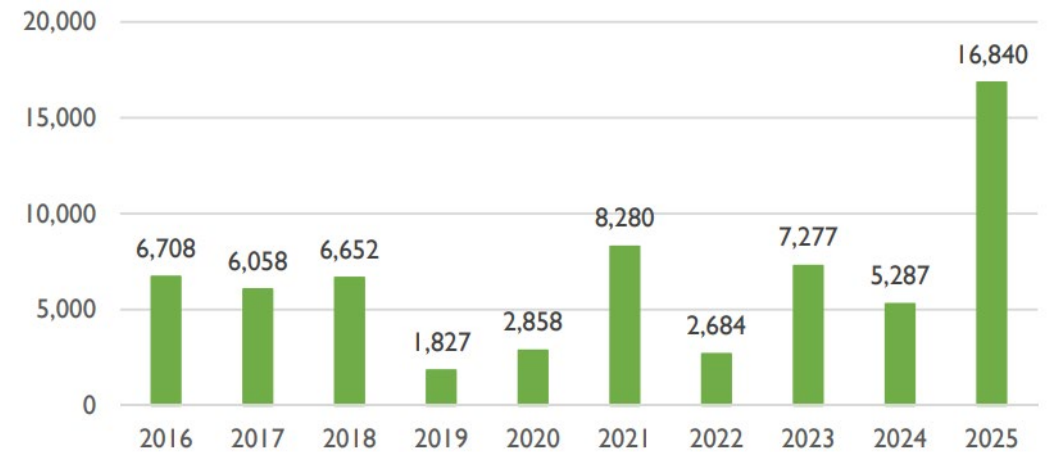
25th Anniversary Year in Review

Inspire Donors to GIVE

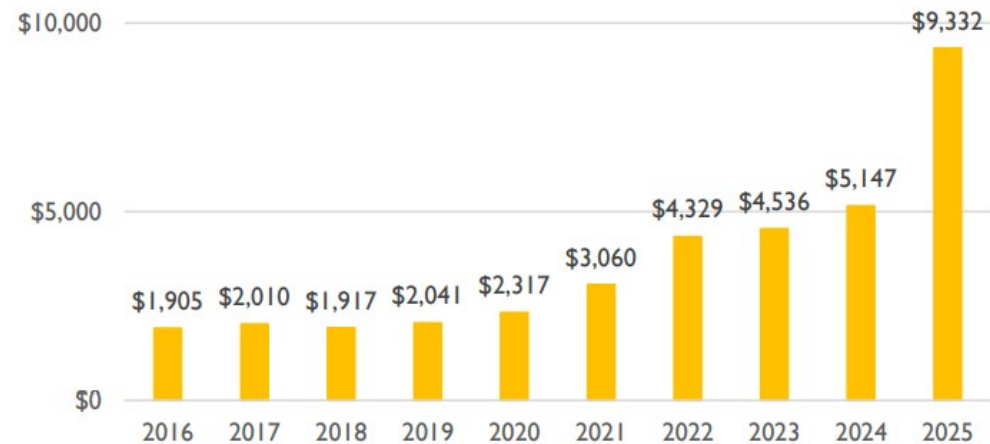
DAF Assets (in 000s)



DAF Contributions (in 000s)

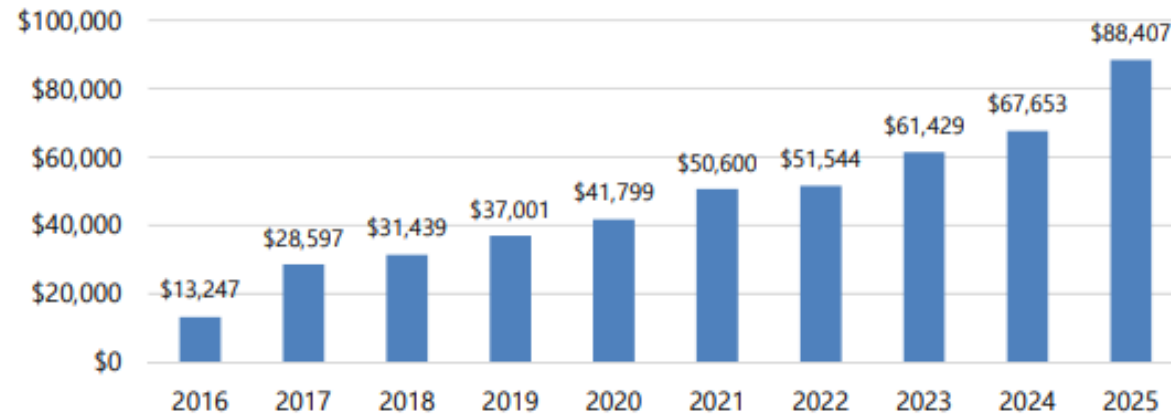


DAF Grants (in 000s)

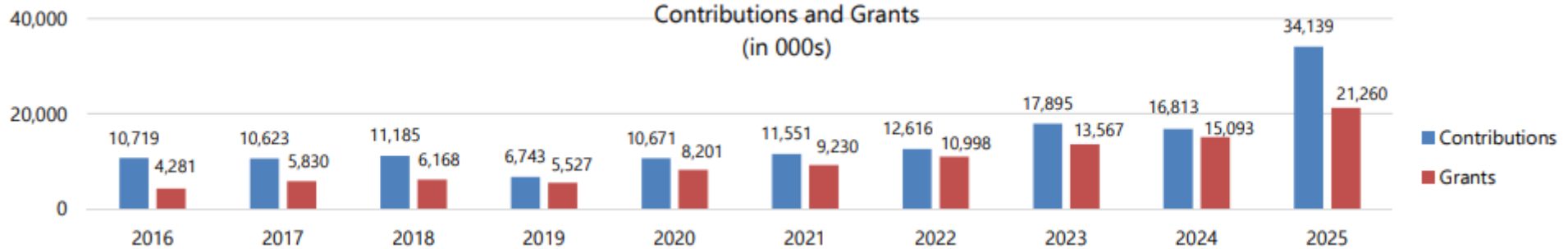




ASSETS (in 000s)



Contributions and Grants (in 000s)





Whitefish Community Foundation Staff

- **Alan Davis, President & CEO**
- **Daria Perez, Chief Financial Officer**
- **Laura Abernethy, Administrative Assistant**
- **Lynnette Donaldson, Chief Development Officer**
- **Liz Scholten, Director of Finance & Donor Services**
- **Jill Seigmund, Director of Programs**
- **Now Hiring! Marketing and Communications Manager**



Giving Together for the Flathead Valley

Lynnette Donaldson

Chief Development Officer

Nonprofit Newsletter & Website

ALL grant information is communicated via nonprofit newsletter & on our website

Grant contacts and fund advisors will automatically be added to newsletter mailing list

- Email contact@whitefishcommunityfoundation.org to be added to newsletter mailing list

Today's Agenda

Understanding the Funder
Grants Committee

Application Focus Areas

Board of Directors

Program Impact

Competitive Grant Programs Overview

Oversight and Financial Reports

Understanding the Funder

- Mission: Whitefish Community Foundation is dedicated to fostering philanthropy, building endowments, and helping donors and nonprofits benefit the greater Flathead Valley.
- Our Charter:
 - We provide effective ways for donors to support nonprofits
 - We advise donors on strategic giving priorities
 - We invest charitable dollars to maximize impact
 - We grow endowments to sustain nonprofits
 - We provide direct funding to fill critical needs
 - We lead initiatives that inspire giving
 - We strengthen local nonprofits to excel at their missions

Understanding the Funder

Why is telling your story important?

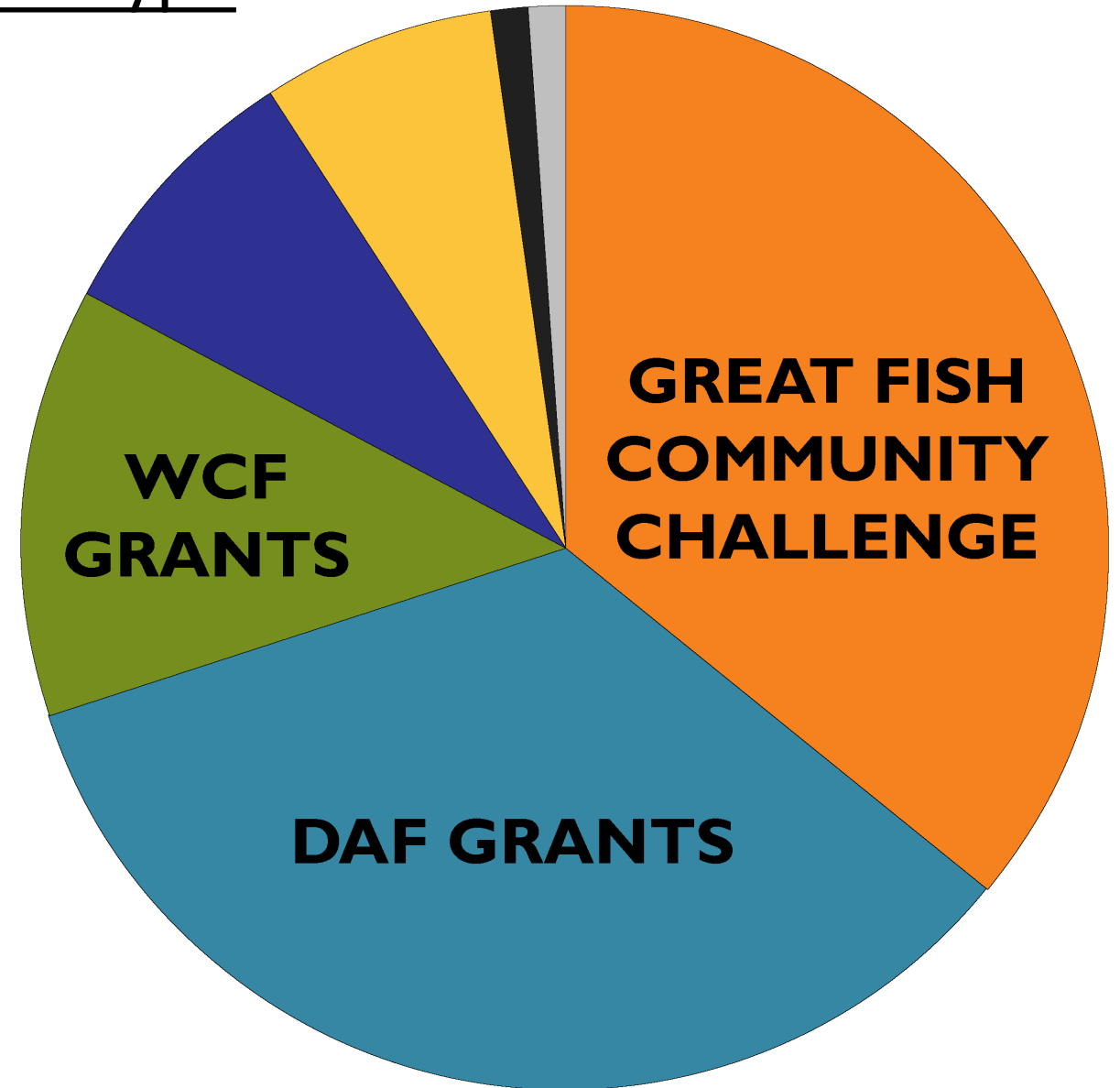
WCF Grants Committee

- Members must have served on the WCF Board of Directors
- 9 to 13 volunteer members
- Knowledgeable and visionary individuals
 - Founders, CEO's and CFO's of large corporations
 - Long-standing local business owners
 - Experience managing family foundations
 - Broad nonprofit and for-profit board experience
 - Have lived in the Flathead Valley for decades

2025 Grant Distributions by Fund Type

\$21.5 million granted in 2025

- Great Fish Funds
- Donor Advised Funds
- WCF Grant Programs
- Designated Funds
- Endowment Funds
- Agency Funds
- Scholarships



Application Focus Areas

1. Financial Oversight (Liz will discuss)
2. Board of Directors
3. Program Impact – most important, BUT
 - We are funding nonprofit programs with our donors' money - WCF is ultimately responsible to them
 - Gaps in governance and oversight create substantial barriers to funding

Board of Directors

Tune up for Governance Workshop – Ned Cooney Jan 22, noon to 1pm via Zoom

- Ensures organization fulfills mission, complies with laws, provides fiduciary oversight of assets
- Core Responsibilities
 - Fiduciary duty – duty of care, loyalty, obedience
 - Mission and strategic direction
 - Financial oversight
 - Hiring of chief executive (executive director)
 - Policy and legal compliance
- **Can this be accomplished if the board includes**
 - **Married couples?**
 - **Relatives of board members or staff?**

Are you telling the whole story?

**Does the application generate more
questions than answers?**



Giving Together for the Flathead Valley

Competitive Grant Programs

Apply online at whitefishcommunityfoundation.org

whitefishcommunityfoundation.org

(406) 863-1781 | CONTACT US

 DONATE

 LOGIN



ABOUT WCF ▾

GIVE ▾

APPLY ▾

LEARN ▾

JOIN ▾

GREAT FISH COMMUNITY CHALLENGE ▾



whitefishcommunityfoundation.org

(406) 863-1781 | CONTACT US

DONATE

LOGIN

WHITEFISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
Giving Together for the Flathead Valley

ABOUT WCF ▾ GIVE ▾ APPLY ▾ LEARN ▾ JOIN ▾ GREAT FISH COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

- Fund Advisors
- Grantee Login
- Board of Directors
- Grants Committee
- Scholarship Portal

WHITEFISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
Giving Together for the Flathead Valley

THE FLATHEAD VALLEY'S HOME FOR CHARITABLE GIVING FOR 25 YEARS

Grant Management Software Login Page



Logon

Email Address*

Password*

Log On

Create New Account

[Forgot your Password?](#)

Welcome to the Whitefish Community Foundation's online grant portal. All organizations wishing to apply for a Community Foundation grant must create an account in this software.

Once your account is created, you will have access to detailed descriptions of our grant programs, eligibility requirements, and the online application process. All of your Whitefish Community Foundation grant-related documents, including a complete granting history for your organization may be viewed from this convenient location.

New Users: Please click on "Create New Account" to complete the registration process and create your logon credentials.



Grant Programs Overview

Primary Contact – Community & Youth Sports Grant Program: Lynnette Donaldson
Primary Contact – Great Fish Community Challenge: Jill Seigmund

2026 Application Cycles

Program	Max Request	Application Cycle
Micro Grant Program	\$1,000	Closes Dec 11
Youth Sports Program	\$5,000	Closes Feb 19
Community Grant Program	\$10,000	Closes Feb 19
Great Fish Comm. Challenge	N/A	Apr 1 – May 21
The Kids Fund	\$50,000/yr for up to 3 yrs	Closes Nov 13
Nonprofit Capacity Building	Various	Closes Dec 31
Community Emergency Response Fund	Dependent on emergency	Closes Dec 31

The Kids Fund

- Supports Flathead County nonprofits serving youth at-risk of homelessness in the areas of housing, health & mental wellness, safety, food access, & education
- Accepting online letters of interest (LOI's) until November 13
- Maximum request is \$50,000/year for up to 3 years

Community Emergency Response Fund

- Accepts applications year-round
- Provides resources for nonprofits facing an unexpected emergency
- Emergency defined as unexpected event that must be addressed immediately in order to keep the nonprofit operating



Nonprofit Capacity Building Program

- Reimbursement grants up to support:
 - QuickBooks implementation
 - Donor database implementation
 - Strategic planning with Ned Cooney
- Eligibility Criteria:
 - Flathead County-based organizations
 - Board of directors composed primarily of Flathead County residents
 - Organization has previously received a Whitefish Community Foundation grant
- See WCF website or log into grant management software and click “Apply” on the top toolbar for complete program description

WHITEFISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



nonprofit
development
program

Providing free professional development and networking opportunities for nonprofit staff, leaders, and volunteers

Shaping AI Technology to Fit Your Nonprofit's Mission

February 22nd, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Conor Smith, First Call Computer Solutions in Missoula

Via Zoom

Explore how AI fits into the nonprofit tech stack, supports teams and operations, and can be used responsibly to increase capacity while managing risk.

Leading Through Change – The People Side of Change Management

March 12th, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Adam Hannigan, Mountain Collective Coaching

FVCC Wachholz Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center



Which grant program should we apply to?

Micro Grant, Community/Youth Sports Grant, Great Fish Community Challenge

Micro Grants

- New and younger organizations
- Limited governance and/or oversight
- Spreadsheet financials
- Logo and website still in development

Community Grants

- Diversified board, improved governance
- Board demonstrating oversight – QuickBooks financials
- Basic marketing – newsletters, website, logo
- Donor support, applying for grants (other than WCF), developing income streams

Great Fish Community Challenge

- Strategic board with thoughtful selection process
- Intentional donor stewardship, regular one-to-one contact with donors
- Actively employ donor database software
- Strategic marketing – monthly targeted newsletters & social media

Micro Grant Program

- Accepting applications until December 12
- **Maximum Micro Grant request is \$1,000**
- Micro Grants respond quickly to the needs of smaller or younger nonprofits to fund projects or programs
- Organizations may apply for a Micro Grant or Community Grant once each year
- Who should apply for a Micro Grant:
 - Newly established organizations
 - Organizations that do not have the infrastructure to manage the Community Grant application

Community Grant Program

- The Community Grant Program is a learning opportunity for both the nonprofit and Whitefish Community Foundation.
- Apply for a Community Grant BEFORE applying to participate in the Great Fish Community Challenge.
 - **Application cycle closes February 19th at 5:00 pm MDT**
 - Maximum request \$10,000
 - Supports programs or capital projects
- Awards Event Tuesday, April 28th at the O'Shaughnessy Center in Whitefish
 - Awardees must attend to accept their grant

Community Grant Program Eligibility Criteria

- IRS designated 501(c)(3) public charities serving residents of
- Flathead County, Montana
 - Organization based in Flathead County, board of directors composed primarily of Flathead County residents, OR
 - State organization with paid staff providing a program with significant impact for residents of Flathead County and Flathead County representation on the board of directors
- Lincoln County or Glacier County-based organizations providing or supporting health and human services

Community Grants & the Great Fish Community Challenge

- The Community Grant program prioritizes organizations that do not participate in the Great Fish Community Challenge
- Organizations that participated in the 2025 Great Fish Community Challenge may also apply for a Community Grant. Eligible requests include:
 - An unforeseen need or opportunity
 - A new program
 - Small capital projects outside of the organizational operating budget that fill a new or significant need
- These requests must fall clearly outside of general operations & programs funded through your Challenge use of funds

Youth Sports Grant Program

- Accepting applications from January 12 to February 19
- Maximum request \$5,000, Flathead County organizations only
- Eligibility Criteria:
 - 501(c)(3) nonprofit public charities raising funds to support school-sanctioned, but not funded high school sports programs (self-supporting high school sports programs)
 - 501(c)(3) nonprofit public charities running Flathead Valley youth sports programs
- Ineligible organizations:
 - 501(c)(3) nonprofit public charities raising funds to support school-sanctioned AND funded youth sports programs. (Please contact us if your organization falls into this category)
 - Great Fish Community Challenge participating organizations are not eligible to apply
- Awards Event Tuesday, April 28th at the O'Shaughnessy Center in Whitefish
 - Awardees must attend to accept their grant

Applying for a Community Grant or Youth Sports Program Grant

- Apply EARLY, especially if you are a new grantee
- Key Tip: Complete the upload questions first!
- Submitting an application initiates a dialogue between the applicant and Foundation staff
- We will contact you asap if you need to edit the application
- The application may be edited multiple times to make sure it is complete, but it must be complete by February 19th at 5pm in order to be reviewed by the Grants Committee
- You can apply for a Youth Sports or Community Grant and still apply to participate in the Great Fish Community Challenge. This is recommended for organizations new to the Challenge.

Great Fish Community Challenge

Accepting Applications April 1 to May 21, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.



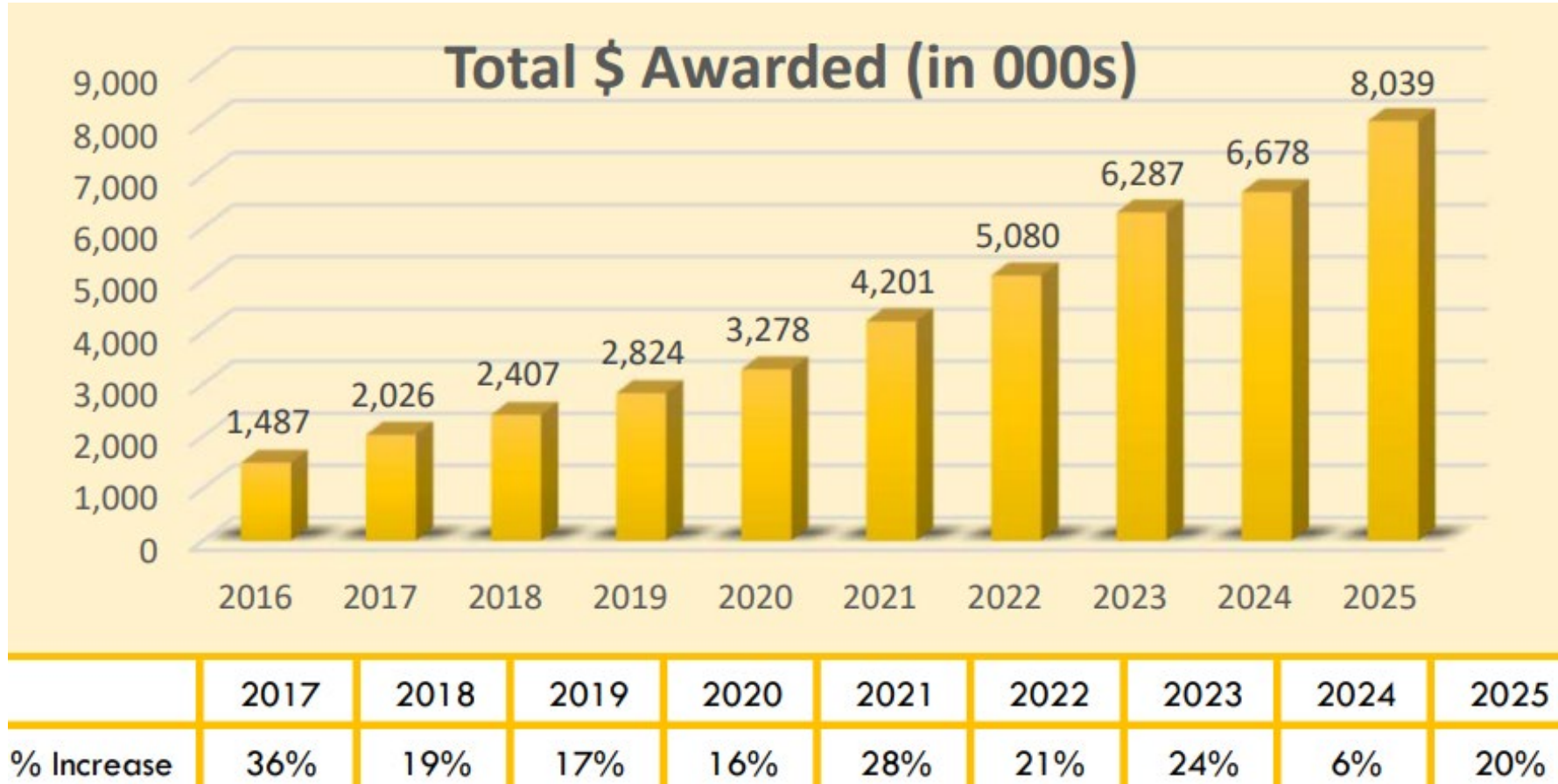
Great Fish Community Challenge

Why it works and How it works

- Community-wide campaign designed to inspire giving
- Circle of Giving – Great Fish Match
- Donors can make one donation and give to multiple charities

- Whitefish Community Foundation - 2025 campaign cost \$367,839
 - Provides the platform & online fund portal
 - 14,734 gifts processed in 2025 for 85 nonprofits
 - Marketing materials, advertising and leaderboard
 - Organizes and hosts free community events
 - Fundraises the Great Fish Match Fund

Great Fish Community Challenge History



The Great Fish Match Fund

- **The campaign will launch with \$600,000 in the Match Fund**
- **Nonprofits must raise a minimum of \$10,000 to qualify for a grant from the Great Fish Match Fund**
- The Great Match Fund will award a matching percentage grant on \$25,000 raised by each participating organization
- The Matching Grant amount depends on the ratio of the total \$ raised in the Great Match Fund and the amount of eligible contributions raised by nonprofits during the campaign
- In 2025, a maximum \$17,000 Matching Grant awarded on first \$25,000 raised
 - 68% match on amount raised up to \$25k.

Campaign will be August 11 – September 11, 2026

- **Applicants notified**
By June 17th
- **Great Fish Mandatory Meeting**
June 23rd – O’Shaughnessy Center
 - **Great Fish Launch Party**
Tuesday, August 11 – Range Riders Stadium
- **Great Fish Pop-Up Donation Stations**
Two/week (8 or 9 Pop-Ups total)
- **Campaign Ends** Friday, September 11, 5:00 p.m.
 - **Great Fish Awards Ceremony**
October 22, Wachholz College Center

Application – What to Expect

- Everyone completes the same application
- Application captures:
 - Use of Funds statements
 - Financial reports
 - IRS Determination letter
 - Fund advisors
 - 990 or 990-EZ
 - Board resolution approving Use of Funds, Fund Advisors, Fundraising Goal
- Organizations that did not participate in 2025 will have the opportunity to provide detailed program information relating to their Use of Funds

Great Fish Community Challenge

- Board approval required for:
- Use of Funds, Fund Advisors, Fundraising Goal (new this year)
- The Committee discusses your fundraising goal
 - How does it compare to last year's goal?
 - How likely are you to attain it?
 - If it is low, why?
 - Is the organization using this as a tool?
- We want to know that it a goal set by your entire organization.
- We also understand that you (and WCF) do not have a crystal ball!



Giving Together for the Flathead Valley

Eligibility Requirements

Great Fish Community Challenge

Eligibility Requirements

- IRS designated 501(c)(3) public charities serving Flathead County
 - An organization that predominantly serves Flathead County, MT, OR
 - An official Flathead County, MT chapter in good standing of a state, regional, or national organization, with a board or local advisory board comprised predominantly of Flathead County, MT residents, OR
 - A state organization with Flathead County, MT representation on the board; at least one paid employee whose responsibilities are predominantly comprised of program work in Flathead County, MT; and dedicated office space in Flathead County, MT
- Attended this meeting if did not participate in 2025
- Previous participation in WCF grant program (Community Grant!)
- Candid Bronze Seal of Transparency

Why local board members?

- This is LOCAL Campaign
 - On average, over 90% of gifts designated to participating nonprofits come from Flathead County donors
- Organizations have to be able to fundraise in the Flathead Valley

Candid Bronze Seal of Transparency

- Funders use Candid (formerly GuideStar) to verify 501(c)(3) nonprofit public charities in good standing with the IRS
- Update your profile to Bronze level asap
 - Seals of Transparency expire after 2 years if profile not updated
- Updating profile is easy but gaining access to do so may take time



Giving Together for the Flathead Valley

Great Fish Community Challenge Application Tips

Submit Application EARLY

- Application Open April 1th - May 21 at 5:00 p.m. MDT
- Submitting your application begins the review process
- We will work with you to make sure your application is complete as long as we have time to do so
- **The application can be edited and resubmitted as many times as necessary, but it MUST be COMPLETE by Thursday, May 21nd at 5:00 p.m. MDT**

Application Workshop (Dates & Location TBD)

- Attend the workshop to:
 - Receive help accessing and using the application software
 - Clarify financial reports (content and formatting)
 - Discuss your use of funds
 - Ask questions about the campaign in general
 - Two workshops available
 - Dates and locations to be determined
 - Bring your laptop or iPad



Use of Funds

Spending funds raised in the Great Fish Community Challenge

Use of Funds

Your Great Fish Fund is a Designated Fund

Prior to applying, organizations must decide (designate) how they will spend funds raised during the campaign.

This designation is your “Use of Funds”.

- Use of Funds will be used to market your organization to the community
- All funds raised must be allocated to your Use of Funds
- Use of Funds must be approved by your Board of Directors

Primary and Secondary Use of Funds

All participating organizations will designate a primary use of funds

- **Primary Use of Funds (required):**

1. Descriptive programs statement or Board approved mission statement
 - Raising unrestricted funds to support everything you do
2. Significant capital project or specific program

- **Secondary Use of Funds (optional):**

1. Permanent Endowment Fund Held at WCF
 - May be used if primary use of funds is a capital project or specific program
2. Descriptive programs statement or Board approved mission statement
 - May only be used as secondary use of funds if primary use of funds is a capital project

- Over 80% of participating organizations only have a Primary Use of Funds
- Of those with a Secondary Use of Funds, 70% use their endowment



Name & Logo

Does your logo match your official name?

IRS Determination

WCF must market organizations using their official name registered with the IRS.

Check your Determination Letter and your 990:

- Are you doing business under a different name?
- Does your official name registered with the IRS match your logo?

Include your DBA on your 990 every year!

Form **990**

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

EXTENDED TO NOVEMBER 15, 2019

Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except private foundations)

▶ Do not enter social security numbers on this form as it may be made public.

▶ Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

OMB No. 1545-0047

2018

Open to Public
Inspection

A For the 2018 calendar year, or tax year beginning and ending

B Check if applicable:

- Address change
- Name change
- Initial return
- Final return/terminated
- Amended return
- Applies

C Name of organization

WHITEFISH SPORTS FACILITIES FOUNDATION

Doing business as STUMPTOWN ICE DEN

Number and street (or P.O. box if mail is not delivered to street address)

121 WISCONSIN AVENUE

Room/suite

City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code

WHITEFISH, MT 59937

D Employer identification number

84-1418978

E Telephone number

(406) 862-7800

G Gross receipts \$

513,897.

H(a) Is this a group return



Our logo doesn't match our name, what next?

Adding an Official ABN/DBA: Call us or email grants@whitefishcommunityfoundation.org

Program Impact

Are you telling the whole story?

Does the application generate more questions than answers?



Liz Scholten

Director of Finance and Donor Services

Required Financial Reports

For Community Grant and GFCC applications

Financial Reports required for grant applications

- **Income statement** – organization wide
aka “Profit and Loss Stmt”
Must show budget vs actual
- **Balance Sheet** – current year vs prior year
- **Budget** – depends on your grant ask
Project Budget -or- Organization wide Budget

Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual

January through December 2025

	Jan - Dec 2025	Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
4000 - CONTRIBUTIONS INCOME	92,624.92	80,500.00
4200 - EVENTS/OTHER INCOME	53,684.92	50,000.00
4500 - INVESTMENT INCOME	2,395.84	2,500.00
Total Income	148,705.68	133,000.00
Expense		
5400 - Events	4,290.82	5,000.00
5500 - Fund-raising expenses	2,556.54	1,800.00
5510 - Bank and Credit Card fees	4.03	
5600 - Office expense	1,401.55	2,750.00
5610 - Office Supplies	643.71	1,000.00
5620 - Office rent	4,200.00	4,500.00
5650 - Telephone	826.67	1,000.00
5700 - Printing and Publication	5,705.21	6,000.00
5710 - Postage	1,471.13	1,800.00
5720 - Internet	624.21	600.00
5730 - Web Site Maintenance	629.70	500.00
5740 - Advertising	1,000.02	500.00
5750 - Marketing/Promotion	3,895.58	1,000.00
5760 - Dues and subscriptions	573.00	500.00
5800 - Insurance		
5810 - Worker's compensation insurance	386.90	400.00
5820 - Liability insurance	601.00	1,350.00
Total 5800 - Insurance	987.90	1,750.00
5830 - Accounting/Professional Fees	2,852.00	2,250.00
5900 - Payroll Expenses		
5910 - Salaries & Wages	21,195.40	18,000.00
5920 - Payroll Taxes	1,638.40	2,000.00
Total 5900 - Payroll Expenses	22,833.80	20,000.00
Total Expense	54,295.87	50,950.00
Net Ordinary Income	94,409.81	82,050.00

Budget vs Actual Income Statement (aka Profit & Loss Stmt or Stmt of Activites)

Cannot emphasize this enough –
You must include a budget column
on your P&L for your application to
be considered.

Why Budget vs Actual?

- **Ability** – communicates to the reviewer that you are able to budget for operations and projects and monitor your progress
- **Oversight** - Board of Directors should be looking at budget vs actual financials regularly
- **Strategic** - You cannot do strategic planning if you are not budgeting

EXAMPLE NONPROFIT
Balance Sheet
 December 31, 2020

	2020	2019
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash	30,000.00	12,600.00
Investments	15,000.00	14,500.00
Inventories		
Accounts receivable	500.00	1,000.00
Total current assets	\$ 45,500.00	\$ 28,100.00
Fixed assets:		
Property and equipment	20,000.00	20,000.00
Leasehold improvements	5,000.00	500.00
Less accumulated depreciation	(10,000.00)	(9,000.00)
Net fixed assets	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 11,500.00
Total assets	\$ 60,500.00	\$ 39,600.00
Liabilities and owner's equity		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	2,000.00	1,500.00
Accrued wages		
Total current liabilities	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,500.00
Long-term liabilities		
Mortgage payable	-	-
Total long-term liabilities	-	-
Equity		
Beginning Net Assets	38,100.00	20,100.00
Net Income	20,400.00	18,000.00
Total Equity	\$ 58,500.00	\$ 38,100.00
Total liabilities and equity	\$ 60,500.00	\$ 39,600.00

Balance Sheet

Two-year comparative
 (Two most recently
 completed fiscal years)

Application Budget Question:

Please upload a detailed project or program budget which includes **income sources on the top and anticipated expenses underneath.**

- a) If this grant will support a capital project or specific program, this budget must include anticipated income from all sources and itemized expenses, OR
- b) If this grant will support ongoing programs, please upload your organization budget for the fiscal year.

*If approved, your organization will receive the funds on April 28, 2026. Your budget should capture the time period after April 28th, when you will spend these funds.

Mt. Snowy Ski Area
Proposed Budget
FY 2025

Revenue

Operating Revenue:

Season Passes	120,000.00
Daily Lift Tickets	560,000.00
Food & Beverage	160,000.00
Parking	40,000.00
Merchandise	25,000.00

Other Revenue:

SNOWFest	50,000.00
Fundraising - Great Fish	50,000.00

Total Revenue 1,005,000.00

Expenses

Operating Expenses:

Payroll	480,000.00
Utilities	160,000.00
Equipment + Repairs	125,000.00
Advertising & Promotion	75,000.00
Food	30,000.00
Cost of Goods sold	20,000.00

Other Expenses:

SNOWFest expenses	32,000.00
-------------------	-----------

Total Expenses: 922,000.00

Net Income 83,000.00

Organization wide budget
for fiscal year where \$\$ will
be spent

Proposed budget that
includes your projected
Great Fish fundraising

**You won't receive your Great Fish \$\$ until
October 2026, so be sure budget timing is correct

XYZ Organization - Project Budget

Income Sources:	
Donations	3,000
WCF Grant	5,800
XYZ Fdn Grant	5,000
Operating Income	2,800
Total Income:	16,600
Expenses:	
Expense A	10,000
Expense B	2,500
Expense C	2,800
Expense D	1,300
Total Expenses:	16,600

Project budget for fiscal year where \$\$ will be spent

Proposed budget for your grant request that includes all income sources and expenses – shows us where a WCF grant will fit into your plan.

Project Budget Tips

- Keep it simple – large font, one page
- Be realistic
- Is your request appropriate for the scope & impact of your project
- Include income sources even if the project is uncomplicated
 - (ie. purchasing equipment or a vehicle)
- Include your WCF grant request as a budgeted line item
 - Committee can see how our grant fits into the project/program
 - Stronger application - WCF not the only income source
- Back it up with attached estimates if necessary
- Invest some time – it tells a story

Common Financial Reporting Errors/Questions

Most common problem:

- Profit & Loss Statement is not Budget versus Actual

Most common question:

- Budget not approved for FY 2026/27 yet

Other issues:

- Balance sheet doesn't match income statement

Formatting is Important

In 2025, our all-volunteer Grants Committee reviewed:

- Community Grants – 68 Applications
- Great Fish Community Challenge – 92 Applications
- Emergency Grants, Kids Fund, Major Community Projects.....

Minimum 160 applications/year!

How to check formatting:

From the application, click “Application Packet” at the top of the page
Scroll through and make sure your uploads are legible and right-side-up

Are you ready for the Great Fish Community Challenge?

- The Challenge can't make an organization
- To be invited to participate, you need to demonstrate:
 - Board depth and oversight
 - Ability to market your organization
 - Ability to fundraise
 - Can you raise \$25,000 from 75 donors in four weeks?



Questions?
Thank you!

Whitefish Community Foundation (EIN 81-0533002)

PO Box 1060, Whitefish, MT 59937

grants@whitefishcommunityfoundation.org

406-863-1781