



COMMUNITY SUSTAINING FUND OF THURSTON COUNTY

2103 Harrison NW, Suite 2715 Olympia, WA 98502

GRANT CRITERIA

The Community Sustaining Fund (CSF) provides grant support for progressive, community-oriented projects in Thurston County. Our funding is aimed at creating a democratic, just, nonviolent and ecologically sound society.

CSF was formed in 1987 in response to the lack of funds available for developing and maintaining local social change activities. We support groups and individuals that are actively working to educate and involve this community in challenging and correcting the social, political and economic inequities around us.

Grants are awarded for such organizational needs as startup funding, public outreach, training, equipment, and special projects. CSF realizes that most applicants will not be involved in all these activities nor fit all the criteria listed below. We encourage applications with the understanding that some of these criteria may not be appropriate or possible at any given time.

CSF CONSIDERS PROJECTS WHICH:

- Are developed and led by residents of Thurston County
- Operate in a democratic, nondiscriminatory manner which is responsive to the constituency served
- Actively pursue cultural diversity in group composition
- Actively work toward a more just and equitable world of ecological and economic balance and personal and social responsibility
- Commit to using the funds locally

CSF WILL GENERALLY NOT FUND:

- Projects that are or can be funded by traditional funding sources (i.e., government agencies, United Way, major foundations, etc.)
- Artistic or cultural events that are not part of other organizing activities (we are more interested in supporting projects that integrate cultural activities into social change work)
- Social services (unless the project promotes social change beyond its basic function)
- Ongoing organizational operating costs

CSF IS INTERESTED IN GROUPS FOCUSING ON:

SOCIAL JUSTICE (people -> people)	Youth, Gender Equality, Disarmament, Gay & Lesbian, Foreign Affairs, Racial Equality, Domestic Violence, Native Peoples, Disabled, Elderly, Parenting & Child Care, Civil Liberties
COMMUNITY BUILDING (people -> society)	Education, Economics, Communication, Arts & Culture, Health Care, Transportation, Housing & Homelessness, Grassroots Democracy, Unemployed & Working Poor, Labor Issues, Spirituality
ENVIRONMENT (society -> environment)	Environmental Defense, Agriculture, Animal Rights, Land use Planning, Forestry, Energy, Water Quality, Waste & Recycling, Environmental Racism

CSF IS MOST INTERESTED IN THOSE GROUPS THAT EXPRESS THE FOLLOWING:

Values

- Material simplicity
- Participatory democracy
- Community-oriented economics
- Ecologically conscientious society
- Nonviolent forms of conflict resolution
- Respect for human dignity and diversity
- Connect local activities with broader social change issues
- Inclusive of people with varying political, social and cultural backgrounds

Strategies and Activities

- Conduct social change research
- Work to introduce new people to ideas of social change
- Organize people to participate in social change activities
- Promote cultural and artistic activities that encourage social change

Organizational Approach

- Encourage networking with other social change groups
- Effectively reach and build an organization responsive to the community
- Work to make power relationships equitable within their group and issue area

Long Term Goals

- Develop and implement long-range strategies and goals
- Develop a self-sustaining financial plan based on realistic sources of revenue

- Pass on skills and expertise to increase the body of local and regional organizers