

GENERAL EVALUATION CRITERIA TO CONSIDER

1. The application is organized and understandable.
2. The organization has the capacity to complete the proposed project or effectively use the asset purchase.
 - The organization has a history of producing quality results and has the experienced staff/volunteers to complete the project.
3. The community need for the proposed project or benefit from the asset purchase is clearly defined.
 - The narrative clearly states the positive impact to the community served. Consider the following issues: Is there a clear time frame for project completion? Does the narrative describe how many people will be positively affected through outcomes of the project? Does the project have a significant impact on the Eau Claire area? Please bear in mind that the impact can be in any of the four grant categories (Create Culture, Give Green, Offer Opportunities, and Form Futures).
4. The proposed project or asset purchase offers a realistic approach to meeting the stated, identified needs without duplicating existing programs/services.
 - In your opinion, can the project work? Is the plan innovative? Are similar services currently offered that duplicate the proposed project?
5. The proposed project or plan for the asset purchase is focused and well designed, with clear and realistic objectives and measurable outcomes.
 - Does the proposal offer specific goals and objectives that can be quantified or measured with hard data?
 - Does the proposed plan have an evaluation method? How will the goals or objectives of the plan be evaluated in terms of determining if the project was successful?
6. The project or asset purchase has the potential to become a long-term solution for an existing problem or have a positive cultural impact on the Eau Claire area. The project is sustainable beyond the grant period.
 - After ECCF grant funding is spent, can the project still be continued? Is the project a viable, lasting solution to identified needs?
7. The grant proposal is collaborative and/or cooperative in nature and leverages other resources.
 - Has the applying organization garnered partnerships with other nonprofits, publicly supported agencies, or organizations? Does the projected program utilize funding from other sources?
8. The proposed program or asset purchase is cost-effective.
 - How many people will be impacted with the grant? Is the money being spent and the proposed project or asset purchase helping a corresponding amount of people?
 - The quality of the impact also matters; some organizations, such as Habitat for Humanity, might serve a small number of people directly but have a significant long term impact on those served.
 - Overall, does the program or asset purchase offer good “bang for your buck”?
9. The proposed program’s budget is complete, realistic, and the funding requested is appropriate.
 - Does the budget form clearly explain all costs and sources of funding for the specific proposal? Is it clear where your money will be spent?
10. You want to fund this project.
 - Do you want to fund this project? The proposal may not be the most professionally written, but you may think the program, service, or asset purchase is worthy of support. Conversely, the application may be very polished, but you may feel the organization has access to other sources of funding and/or doesn’t meet all the other grant criteria.