

Duke Energy Foundation Philanthropic and Investment Priorities



Charitable giving and volunteerism are an integral part of Duke Energy's commitment to the communities we serve. Strong, vibrant communities do not happen by accident. They are the result of hard work, significant investments of time and key partnerships to solve challenges.

The Duke Energy Foundation, along with employee and retiree volunteers, provides philanthropic support to address the needs of the communities where our customers live and work. In 2015, the Foundation provided more than \$30 million in charitable giving. We review funding requests at the regional level and target programs aligned with our investment priorities that have the greatest impact on community needs.

The Duke Energy Foundation powers vibrant communities in the regions we serve by focusing on three investment priorities.

K to Career

Our commitment to quality education spans kindergarten through career. The commitment to quality education began with the founders of our company and it remains steadfast today.

Supporting effective education programs and initiatives that emphasize science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and early childhood literacy is a critical focus for Duke Energy.

Education and training are life-long needs. Workforce development initiatives, including higher education and job readiness programs, can help create the next generation workforce businesses and industries need to be successful. This is why we support high-performing, sustainable programs and initiatives that contribute to our goal of building a diverse workforce of the future.

Application Period: January-February

Community Impact

Duke Energy is committed to enhancing the vibrancy and resiliency of the communities we serve. We provide grants to nonprofit organizations and invest in philanthropic programs that provide access and encourage an appreciation of the arts and culture – powerful tools that connect people and help economies thrive. We support capacity-building initiatives that strengthen the nonprofit community. This may include pilot trainings or professional development programs to build capabilities, knowledge and skills to help nonprofits fulfill their missions. We also support strategic community initiatives that help address region-specific needs. Grant applications for these initiatives are by invitation only.

Giving back is one way we help build strong communities. For more than 100 years, employee and retiree involvement has been a hallmark of Duke Energy. Working under the banner "Duke Energy In Action," our employees and retirees volunteer for projects – large and small – throughout the year.

The power to change lives, change communities.



We support employee giving through matching gifts for employee and retiree donations to qualifying nonprofit organizations; our Duke Energy United Way and community arts campaigns; and through grants to support employee and retiree volunteer efforts. Our energy assistance programs also help those in need to cope with extreme heat and cold. The company works directly with beneficiary agencies and does not accept grant applications for its energy assistance or disaster relief programs.

Application Period: April-May

Environment

As one of the largest U.S. electric utilities, Duke Energy has the ability – and the responsibility – to make a positive difference for our customers, communities and the future we share. It's an important balancing act as we focus on what is important to customers, including fair prices, reliable power and cleaner energy sources. We are committed to environmental stewardship and support environment and wildlife programs that protect, improve or restore natural resources, especially water and air. To advance research in emerging energy technology that promotes clean and reliable energy generation and use, Duke Energy also supports university research and collaboration with industrywide benefits that align with our corporate strategy.

Application Period: July-August

Local Community Development Grants

These include grants less than \$10,000 for grassroots nonprofit organizations whose programs and mission support the Duke Energy Foundation's three investment priorities: K to career, the environment and community impact. These are targeted investments designed to meet local community development needs. Applications may be submitted at any time.

Application Period: Ongoing

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